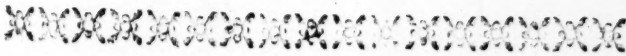


T H E
C A P T I V E.

VOL. II.





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THE
CAPTIVE;

OR, THE

HISTORY

OF

MR. CLIFFORD.

Translated from the FRENCH.

VOL. II.

LONDON:

Printed for the Editor, and sold by J. Roson,
No. 54, St. Martin's Le Grand.

M. DCCLXXI.



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VOL. II.



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T H E
C A P T I V E.

“ S I find,” continued Char-
“ A lotte, “ that you have not
“ used the least reserve with
“ me on this occasion, so
“ I sincerely declare I will not with you,
“ and accordingly do assure you that, al-
“ though the Dey is said to have sent
“ away the Sultana in the manner you
“ described, yet it was with her own
“ consent, nay with the greatest joy that
“ she went. And, because you may be
V O L. II. B “ backward

2 THE CAPTIVE.

“ backward to believe what I am telling
“ you, were I not to say something more
“ concerning it, it will be necessary at
“ least to give you some part of the story,
“ which will at least have this effect, that
“ it will serve to excuse the Dey.

“ You must know, then, Sir, that the
“ Sultana was violently in love with the
“ Christian slave, and the manner how
“ this was brought about, was as follows:
“ The Dey, who as the whole city
“ knew had a great esteem for the
“ Christian, had a mind, either in order
“ to divert him, or to attach him more
“ strongly to the place, to see him in
“ love with some lady, and he was
“ pleased to think I was a very likely
“ person to inspire him with this passion.
“ But because I never used to stir out of
“ the seraglio, and as it would have

THE CAPTIVE. 3

“ given great offence to have seen a
“ Christian in a place where the very
“ natives of the country are not per-
“ mitted to enter, unless they are eu-
“ nuchs, he took it into his head to dis-
“ guise him like an eunuch, and brought
“ him to me one evening, after having
“ proposed the visit sometime before-
“ hand. The Sultana, who was al-
“ ready greatly prejudiced in the Chris-
“ tian’s favour, whom she had heard the
“ Dey speak of very frequently, was
“ extremely rejoiced when she heard
“ that he was to be introduced into the
“ seraglio, and pressed me very earnestly
“ that I would contrive it so as that she
“ might have the pleasure of seeing
“ him, which, indeed, was no very dif-
“ ficult matter ; for the Dey, who did
“ not visit the Sultana very often, send-
“ ing him thus disguised almost every
“ day,

4 THE CAPTIVE.

“ day, the only thing we had to consult
“ was the privacy of the interview.
“ They saw each other, and if Mr. Clif-
“ ford, agreeable as he was, pleased the
“ Sultana, you may be sure on the other
“ hand that so fine a woman as she was
“ could not be displeasing to him.
“ Their affection went on increasing
“ daily in proportion to the frequency
“ of the opportunities which they had
“ of being together. The Dey, who
“ began to find that his Christian friend
“ was in love, and who believed at the
“ same time that I was the object of his
“ affections, was exceedingly delighted
“ therewith. He himself had formerly
“ had a great liking for me, but my
“ indifference had checked him. Ne-
“ vertheless Mr. Clifford’s continual ac-
“ counts of the progress of his passion
“ rekindled in him his former love, and
“ concluding,

THE CAPTIVE. 5

“concluding, from what he now heard,
 “that I should not be so unmoved as
 “before, he again overwhelmed me
 “with tenderness and endearments,
 “which were likewise generally accom-
 “panied with reproaches for the little
 “esteem that I had set upon his heart,
 “in being able to prefer a slave to
 “him. I was determined not to un-
 “deceive him, although I foresaw the
 “fatal consequences of his mistake, be-
 “cause our two lovers would then have
 “been immediately sacrificed, which I
 “rather chose should happen to my-
 “self than to the Sultana, whom I loved
 “excessively, insomuch that I made
 “him believe that I was not insensible of
 “the great defects of the Christian.
 “This produced several odd adventures
 “which sometime or other I may per-
 “haps

6 THE CAPTIVE.

“ haps be at leifure to give you an ac-
“ count of.

“ Notwithstanding all this, the Dey
“ was continually preffing me and re-
“ proaching me every day for the flight
“ that I put upon his love, whilst I was
“ favourable to a Christian who was
“ not fo worthy of it. There was hard-
“ ly any stratagem but he put in
“ practice, endeavouring continually to
“ furprize me in order to accomplifh his
“ amorous designs. At laft it fo hap-
“ pened that he had a private meeting
“ with his wife, whom he miftook for
“ me, and to whom he offered the great-
“ eft violence, in order to revenge him-
“ felf, as he fondly imagined, of my
“ infenfibility. He fatisfied himfelf,
“ and then went away, without discover-
“ ing the miftake which he had made,
“ pleafing

THE CAPTIVE. 7

“pleasing himself with the idea of his
“fancied triumph and success. How-
“ever, at last, stung with remorse at
“the remembrance of an injury which
“he supposed he had been guilty of
“against me, and which he knew not
“how to excuse to one whom he thought
“was bitterly enraged against him, he
“thought that he could no otherwise re-
“pair what he had done than by grant-
“ing freedom to those two lovers whose
“passion he had so unjustly disturbed,
“and which, as an aggravation of the
“fault, he had been the chief cause and
“promoter of at its beginning. This
“he acquainted me with in a note, in
“which he endeavoured to justify him-
“self on account of the greatness of his
“affection ; that, in order to atone for
“what he had done, he had determined
“to banish himself my presence for ever,

8 THE CAPTIVE.

“ and that he would, in pursuance of
“ this resolution, send me and my lover
“ away together, which was all that I
“ could expect from a rival’s generosi-
“ ty ; and that, if I knew what regret
“ to himself my departure would be at-
“ tended with, he did not in the least
“ doubt but I should be convinced that
“ he was punished in a greater degree
“ than he deserved.

“ Whatsoever joy I might feel upon
“ this occasion, yet it was greatly abated
“ by the anxiety that it gave the Sul-
“ tana when she heard it. Her afflic-
“ tion was inexpressible, she did nothing
“ but weep both day and night. She
“ made use of every stratagem that she
“ could think of to avert this impend-
“ ing misfortune. I suffered her to do
“ whatsoever she pleased, choosing
“ rather,

THE CAPTIVE. 9

“ rather, as I saw the uneasiness that it
“ gave her, to renounce all thoughts and
“ hopes of liberty, than to be the cause
“ of so much disquiet to her, which if
“ continued would, I doubt not, have
“ ended in her death. But the Dey
“ was firm in his resolutions upon that
“ head, not seeing any reason she had
“ to oppose a design which she should
“ rather have been fond of than op-
“ posed, especially considering she knew
“ that he had a great liking for me,
“ which had formerly given her a good
“ deal of uneasiness. But he kept his
“ purpose very firmly, and knowing
“ that there was a Christian vessel in
“ the harbour that was ready to sail, he
“ ordered it to stop, in order that we
“ might take the opportunity, and have
“ our passage in it.

10 THE CAPTIVE.

“ You may imagine the consterna-
 “ tion the Sultana was in when she saw
 “ the Dey continued inflexible, and that
 “ we were upon the point of our de-
 “ parture. She was in a kind of de-
 “ spair; and her sighs and tears were
 “ in such abundance, that nothing could
 “ be more affecting. I was to intreat
 “ the Dey to defer our passage, that she
 “ might have more time to reconcile
 “ herself to his departure; but he did
 “ not come to the seraglio, so that I had
 “ no opportunity of asking him. Ei-
 “ ther he was ashamed to see me, or
 “ perhaps afraid that, when he saw me,
 “ he might relapse into tenderness, and
 “ break his resolutions. In short, the
 “ morning that was fixed for our going,
 “ the afflicted Sultana was determined
 “ either to die or follow, as she had
 “ long been plotting how she might
 “ most

THE CAPTIVE. 11

“ most effectually put the latter of these
“ into execution. I lay with her the
“ night before; we had not slept a wink
“ the whole time.

“ Charlotte, said she to me (after hav-
“ ing settled in her mind what she had re-
“ solved to say on this occasion,) you
“ know the affection I have always had
“ for you, and that I have treated you
“ rather as my sister than my slave. I
“ need not therefore tell you that I can-
“ not live without Mr. Clifford, for that
“ you know well enough already. I do
“ not desire, continued she, embracing
“ me at the same time, that you should
“ do any thing for me out of gratitude,
“ and as a return for what I have done,
“ but out of pity rather, and compassion
“ to my afflicted condition. Do not
“ leave me in a situation that is the most
B 6 “ distressful

12 THE CAPTIVE.

“ distressful that a woman who loves so
“ sincerely as I do can possibly be in,
“ but do somewhat towards the saving
“ of my life.

“ Had she asked me to have sacri-
“ ficed my own life, I could not by any
“ means have refused her. This she
“ perceived by the plentiful effusion of
“ tears which accompanied hers; and
“ were a convincing proof that I truly
“ sympathized with her in her distress.
“ She then told me, that she had thought
“ of a scheme by which means she
“ might go along with us, and of the
“ success of which she entertained great
“ hopes, if Mr. Clifford had as real a
“ regard for her as he professed to have;
“ if not, she would console herself with
“ raving at and reviling his ingratitude,
“ and then she should be so far from
“ considering

THE CAPTIVE. 13

“ considering his absence as an evil, that
“ she should look upon it as a great
“ blessing; she added, that she would
“ cause herself to be conveyed to his
“ apartment without any one in the
“ Seraglio’s knowing any thing of the
“ matter, and from thence to the ship
“ in which we were to embark; and that
“ the Dey then sending for me, in order
“ to go, we might all three get on
“ board before her flight would be per-
“ ceived.

“ In order to satisfy her I gave way
“ to this proposal, but in reality I was
“ greatly apprehensive that this affair
“ would not succeed; and I had really
“ some foreboding that I should be the
“ real sufferer at last.

“ It

14 THE CAPTIVE.

“ It is a very dangerous thing to trust
“ to the discretion of lovers, especially
“ in matters that respect the interest of
“ their passions. They flatter them-
“ selves with success, they hope for
“ every thing, and fear nothing.

“ Day beginning to break in upon us,
“ it was necessary that we should begin
“ making some preparations in order to
“ the success of our enterprize. We
“ therefore got up immediately: she
“ took one of my gowns and desired
“ me to send to her the eunuch who
“ used to provide Mr. Clifford with the
“ provisions that he wanted, and who was
“ wholly devoted to her interest. She
“ sent him for his basket, and having
“ covered herself up in her cloak, and
“ put herself in it, she ordered him to
“ carry her thus inclosed to the Christian’s
“ apartment.

THE CAPTIVE. 15

“apartment. I saw them go in this
“manner, waiting with a good deal of
“fear and impatience to see what would
“be the event; and indeed expected to
“receive a message from the Dey that it
“was time for me to go; but at last find-
“ing that it was past the appointed
“time, and that the Sultana did not
“come back, I was willing to see what
“was the matter, when, upon inquiry,
“I found, to my inexpressible astonish-
“ment and concern, that Mr. Clifford
“was gone; and that the Dey, after
“having accompanied him to the water-
“side, had retired to his country house.
“It was then that I felt the stroke of
“adverse fortune, in losing not only all
“hope of ever returning to my native
“country, which had I been happy in
“other respects I could perhaps have
“contented myself without, but also of
“never

16 THE CAPTIVE.

"never seeing the Sultana again whom
 "I loved preferable to every one else;
 "and whose agreeable company had re-
 "conciled me, in a great measure, to
 "my state of captivity. I did not
 "doubt indeed but that her flight would
 "be imputed to me, but I was so well
 "prepared for death, by frequent re-
 "flections on the misery of my life, that
 "when the Seraglio was broke open,
 "I was in little or no concern about my-
 "self; for the loss of my dear Sultana
 "affected me in such a manner that I
 "really knew not whether even the
 "view of death could have been capa-
 "ble of making any addition to it.
 "People were coming to me continu-
 "ally and asking what was become of
 "her; my constant answer was, that I
 "knew nothing of her; but, as I was
 "accounted her chief confidante, they
 "thought

THE CAPTIVE. 17

“thought that I was entrusted with the
“secret of her departure, and I saw
“plainly that every one was greatly
“alarmed and troubled at what had hap-
“pened. This, said Charlotte, is all
“that I had to tell you with respect to
“the Sultana. If you think that this
“account can be of service to the Dey,
“and contribute any thing towards the
“settling of his affairs, I should be glad
“that you would communicate it to the
“Prince, although it may perhaps make
“me appear in a criminal light both to
“the one and the other : but they know
“very well what the situation of a slave
“is, whose happiness consists in an ab-
“solute compliance to the commands
“of her mistress, when she has sufficient
“confidence in them to entrust them
“with her secrets.”

The

18 THE CAPTIVE.

The Turk, at the conclusion of her narrative, told Charlotte that the Dey, having a great regard for her, and consequently very little for his wife, would make no great difficulty at forgiving her the little treachery she had been guilty of; and that as to the Prince he would not take it ill that she had been instrumental in assisting the Sultana to give her husband the slip, who he knew very well did not care at all about her. That he would take care to manage this matter with some members of the assembly who were his particular friends, and especially with the Prince's Aga, who was a great favourite; and who, notwithstanding he was a renegado, liked the Christians very well, and could be of great service even to her. He added several protestations of assistance himself, which pleased Charlotte excessively.

THE CAPTIVE. 19

fively. After which he went away, fearing perhaps, as it was already very late, that if he staid longer he might give the guards room to surmise something to his disadvantage. He promised to come and see her the next day, and to give her an account of what happened in the mean time.

The Dey having, as was said before, put himself at the head of a numerous body of Moriscoes, thought himself strong enough to encounter his enemies; and therefore, as soon as it was light, he made a descent towards the town in order to favour the retreat of his friends and of the militia that came over to him by whole companies; so that, before noon, he found his army consisted of above ten thousand men. The Prince likewise used his utmost endeavours to
arm

20 THE CAPTIVE.

arm his people quickly; but he did not find himself strong enough to go out as yet against the Dey, whose superior number intimidated the people, insomuch that they believed he was coming to besiege them; but as the Prince was the chief person that he wanted to avenge himself on, and cannon was necessary to attack him where he was, he was obliged to stay till those pieces of artillery which he had sent for arrived. However, when he had assembled the chief of his friends together, in order to complain of the unjust proceedings of the Prince, and to ask their advice, he was astonished to find that all of them insisted, as well as the General of the gallies, that it was the Sultana that was embarked with the Christian, and that Charlotte remained in the seraglio, and therefore that the Prince had a very justifiable cause for taking

THE CAPTIVE. 21

taking up arms against him; as he believed that he wanted to get rid of his daughter.

The Dey, who thought that they were still jesting with him, did not vouchsafe to contradict them, but ordered the Captain of the guards to be called, and in the presence of them all asked him whether he had not seen and spoke to the Sultana the day before. Ali, trembling with fear, fell down with his face towards the ground, and owned to him that he thought he had sent him to the seraglio out of a finesse, in order that he might declare before the General that he had seen her, but in reality it was no such matter; for he had only seen Charlotte in the seraglio, who was bewailing the loss of her mistress. Notwithstanding all this, the Dey could not
be

22 THE CAPTIVE.

be persuaded. He said, that in order to the believing this account, he must see Charlotte, and that because he had a number of good reasons to believe the contrary. Just at this time he received a letter from the Prince's secretary, the contents of which were as follows :

“ I KNOW not, my lord, whether
 “ it was your good fortune or
 “ mine that appointed me the charge of
 “ taking out of the seraglio and keep-
 “ ing your beautiful slave ; however,
 “ you ought at least to be persuaded
 “ that she could not fall into safer hands.
 “ She wants for nothing, and if I am
 “ able to do you as well as her any ser-
 “ vice, be assured that I will spare nei-
 “ ther my life nor fortune. However,
 “ if I might presume to advise you, I
 “ should tell you that you ought to con-

“ sult

THE CAPTIVE. 23

“ sult the peace and welfare of your
“ country rather than its tumult and de-
“ struction, which is unavoidable unless
“ you moderate your passion. I know
“ very well that you have great reason
“ to complain, but I know at the same
“ time that the appearances which were
“ against you have deceived the Prince;
“ and that no one is necessary to the
“ departure of the Sultana but only her-
“ self. The precipitate and rash coun-
“ sel of evil-minded men, which the
“ Prince has but too exactly followed,
“ is the cause, in a great measure, of the
“ present confusion. God grant that it
“ may go no farther, and that we may
“ not be eye-witnesses of the ruin of
“ this country by the hands of those
“ who ought to have prevented it; be-
“ ing appointed for its security and
“ protection. I hope that you will
“ both

24 THE CAPTIVE.

“both of you be better advised, and in
“the mean time I wish you all health
“and happiness.

OSMYN, SECRETARY.”

The Dey, as soon as he had read this letter, could no longer doubt of the truth of the thing, being assured that Osmyn was a sincere man and his friend. He was not at all concerned for the loss of the Sultana, laughed at the adventure, and did not believe that she had any intention of following the Christian, had not he given orders to carry her to the ship in the basket. Nor was he at all more affected on account of the mistake which he had made, and, with respect to love, a mistress was at least equal to a wife. He never once suspected the Sultana of being unfaithful, and yet he was
desirous

THE CAPTIVE. 25

desirous of knowing what was her reason for having herself conveyed in a basket to the Christian's room. He concluded, rightly enough, that Charlotte was privy to the whole affair, but he thought her sufficiently punished by having lost her liberty and her lover, in order to gratify a woman that, in time, might become her rival, and as to himself he thought that he was amply revenged. He wanted much to see her, in order to be informed of the several particulars of the affair, and his love being a fresh incentive to all the emotions of curiosity which he felt, made him so extremely impatient that, notwithstanding the great danger of the enterprize, he would have gone that very day to Tunis, if it had not been absolutely necessary to have staid to receive all those that were continually coming over to

26 THE CAPTIVE.

his side. He returned the following answer to his friend, the Secretary.

“ O SMYN, thou hast a treasure
 “ committed to thy care, which
 “ if the Prince knew how much I va-
 “ lued it, he would entrust it to no one,
 “ being well assured that he might then
 “ make peace, and that too a very ad-
 “ vantageous one, whensoever he pleased.
 “ Take as much care of it, I beseech
 “ thee, as thou wouldest of myself were
 “ I with thee, and be assured that I ne-
 “ ver will forget so important a piece of
 “ service. Send me thy Moriscoe to-
 “ morrow-morning. I have need of him
 “ in an affair which I cannot disclose
 “ to thee in writing, and with which I
 “ cannot wholly trust him.”

The

THE CAPTIVE. 27

The night was pretty far advanced when he had finished this note; however, in order to be more secure he would not send it till the morning. The walls of Tunis are exceeding low, and in some places very much out of repair. It is true indeed that, at that time, they were very strongly guarded; but the bearer of the note being known to belong to the Prince's secretary, there was no danger of his being stopped; however he got home without meeting any one.

The faithful Osmyn had been paying a visit that evening to his fair prisoner, as he had promised her, and given her some account of the situation that affairs were in, giving her room to hope that a reconciliation would soon ensue, because the adverse party were already persuaded, by the confession of the

28 THE CAPTIVE.

eunuch, who had carried the basket, that if the Dey had been necessary to the elopement of the Sultana, yet she herself had contributed the most towards it, by the violence of the criminal passion that she entertained for the Christian.

Charlotte, much pleased with this account, could not sufficiently thank Osmyn for the obliging tenderness which he had all along shewn for her. He had caused such a continual plenty of refreshments to be carried her, that she had lived better since she had been in the Prince's prison than when in the Dey's seraglio. She did not know to what motive she could attribute so much kindness and complaisance, and this indeed gave her some little anxiety, as she apprehended that there was a mixture of
love

THE CAPTIVE. 29

love in it; for the Turk appeared so civil, open, and full of humanity (contrary to the behaviour of the generality of his countrymen) that so generous a behaviour seemed rather the result of love to her, than of mere friendship to the Dey. However hitherto he had not been in the least wanting in respect; but she was fearful lest she should have reason to be angry with one who had been so exceedingly kind to her. The truth is, that the Turk acted purely from generous motives. He had been a slave in Italy five or six years, under a very indulgent master, and he thought that a sufficient obligation, besides the natural bent of his temper, to be courteous to the Christians, for whom in general he had a great liking.

30 THE CAPTIVE

As Charlotte was complaining of her misfortunes which were continually coming one after the other, he desired her to give him an account of the manner in which she had been first taken. As she lay under great obligations to this man, whatever grief it might be to her to recall past troubles to her remembrance, the effects of which she was still sensible of, yet she thought that she ought not to refuse him so trifling a satisfaction, but rather to comply with his request, as an instance of her gratitude; insomuch that, after having assured him that he would find nothing entertaining in the recital of her life, she, in order to trace up her misfortunes to their fountain head, began as follows :

“ I am

THE CAPTIVE. 31

“ I am a Genoese, Sir, by birth, and
“ of one of the noblest families in that
“ republic, but you must excuse my
“ telling you our family name. I am
“ willing to spare this disgrace to a set of
“ relations who cannot be greatly ho-
“ noured by the series of misfortunes
“ which I have gone through.

“ I was born in very advantageous
“ and flourishing circumstances; and
“ being an only child, my parents
“ brought me up with a care and ex-
“ pence that favoured more of profusion
“ than of grandeur.

“ It was my unhappy lot to lose my
“ mother when I was twelve years old
“ and my father, although advanced in
“ years, married again a woman more
“ considerable for her birth than for-

“ tune; but there was money enough, pro-
“ vided ambition, or desire of expence,
“ the ordinary weakness of women of
“ quality, had been her foible rather
“ than love.

My father, as I said before, being
“ old, and she young and handsome, he
“ had some reason to be jealous of her.
“ He suffered her to go out but very
“ company, either to church, or to see
“ some relation. But who can oppose
“ their own destiny? My mother in-
“ law, dissatisfied with the severe be-
“ haviour of her husband, found the in-
“ clination of being unfaithful to him in-
“ crease. Nothing provokes desire so
“ much as constraint, and necessity may
“ justly be said to be the mother of inven-
“ tion. She had recourse to several schemes
“ to

“to facilitate the progress of some intrigues
 “she had planned, but not one of them
 “took effect. Nothing could elude my
 “father’s vigilance, who, having been
 “formerly a man of gallantry himself,
 “was upon the watch against all
 “her artifices, inasmuch that she,
 “despairing of all foreign assistance,
 “was resolved to see whether she could
 “not find within doors somebody to
 “satisfy the demands of her libidinous
 “inclinations. Upon this she cast
 “her eyes on a man in a situation
 “that, through a point of honour, I
 “dare not tell you, but otherwise, well
 “made, honest, and, till that time, very
 “faithful to my father; who confided
 “more in him than in any other of his
 “servants.

34 THE CAPTIVE.

“ This intercourse, so disgraceful to
 “ a woman of her rank, continued some
 “ time without being discovered in the
 “ least ; till at length one day it happen-
 “ ed, to their misfortune and mine, that
 “ having fallen asleep on a couch that
 “ was in my mother-in-law’s room, and
 “ awaking on a sudden, I was an eye
 “ witness of her infamous practice.
 “ They had not perceived me at all,
 “ because one of the girls who waited
 “ upon me had thrown a quilt over me
 “ which usually covered the couch. I
 “ saw them, and they me with a sur-
 “ prize, as you may easily imagine,
 “ equally great. I was then about
 “ fourteen or fifteen years of age.”

“ Was it not a slave?” said the
 Turk, interrupting her in a way which
 denoted

THE CAPTIVE. 35

denoted at once both his joy and surprise.

“Yes Sir,” replied Charlotte, astonished at his asking that question, which obliged her in a manner to look on him more attentively; “it was a slave, and
“a Turkish one too.”

“Ah! madam,” said Osmyn, as soon as she had said that, “is it possible that
“you do not recollect Osmyn, and that
“you should be madam Isabella?”

At these words Charlotte remained for some time without saying a syllable, but recovering herself on a sudden,
“Heavens!” cried she, “is it possible that you are Osmyn? By what
“happy turn of fortune is it that I find
“myself entrusted to your care?”

36 THE CAPTIVE.

“ By a happy turn, indeed,” replied he, overjoyed at having an opportunity of serving her ; “ and after
 “ the several obligations that I lay under to your family, I should be the
 “ most ungrateful wretch alive, if I did
 “ not risk even my life to save you. I
 “ know you have reason to be offended
 “ with me, with respect to your mother-
 “ in-law, but what could a poor miserable slave do, solicited by the charms
 “ of a beautiful woman who offered him
 “ both money and freedom whenever he
 “ pleased to accept them? You will
 “ own then that if there was any guilt
 “ in my behaviour, after the kindnesses
 “ which I had received of my master,
 “ yet it is of such a nature that I hope
 “ your goodness will in some measure
 “ excuse it. Indeed I think I have
 “ greatly compensated for my fault,
 “ both

THE CAPTIVE. 37

“ both towards him and you, by having
“ saved your lives ; for your mother-
“ in-law would have fain put an end to
“ you both, by poison, but I had suf-
“ ficient influence over her, to prevent
“ her from putting her mischievous de-
“ signs into execution. She made me
“ all kinds of promises if I would but
“ become the instrument of her ven-
“ geance : but as you are ignorant of
“ the consequences of that adventure, I
“ will give you an account of what en-
“ sued very briefly.

“ Your seeing us, as you before said,
“ surprized us extremely, and in the
“ despair in which your mother-in-law
“ then was, as you know she was ex-
“ ceedingly passionate, I know not
“ what she might have done to have
“ freed herself from you. But I ve-
“ hemently

38 THE CAPTIVE.

38 "hemently opposed her intention, tell-
 1 "ling her, that she was going by her
 2 "behaviour to bring on us an evil that
 3 "might perhaps cost us both our lives, to
 4 "avoid one which it would be no dif-
 5 "ficulty at all to secure ourselves from,
 6 "if properly managed. That it was
 7 "by much the most adviseable scheme
 8 "to try to gain you over to our party,
 9 "which was not at all improbable,
 10 "when it should be pointed out to you,
 11 "that by acquainting your father with
 12 "what you had seen, you would be sure
 13 "to afflict him heavily, and in the end
 14 "might possibly be the means of short-
 15 "ening his life. You may remember
 16 "well that I went out of the room
 17 "with you in order to persuade you,
 18 "and that I told you, moreover, that
 19 "the honour of your family was con-
 20 "cerned in the keeping this affair a se-
 21 "cret.

THE CAPTIVE. 39

“cret, besides several other reasons
“which effectually convinced you.
“You at length promised me that you
“would not say a word about it, pro-
“vided that your mother-in-law kept
“within the bounds of her duty for the
“future. I told her what you had said,
“and your discretion, which was already
“sufficiently known in the house, should
“have been a sufficient proof that you
“would not break your word: how-
“ever she lived in the utmost anxiety and
“uneasiness, not being able to see you
“without shame, or your father with-
“out dread. She used to be telling me
“continually that it was necessary that
“both of you should be sacrificed to
“her peace and quiet, and that, till
“then, she should never be easy and
“comfortable. She desired me to be in-
“strumental to her peace, or else that I
“should be the first that should feel the
“effects

40 THE CAPTIVE.

“ effects of her resentment. I excused
 “ myself as well as I could, and endea-
 “ voured to bring her to hear reason,
 “ but it was some time before I could
 “ prevail upon her. At last, however,
 “ all she aimed atended in getting you
 “ out of the house, and she contented
 “ herself with desiring your father that
 “ you might be sent to some convent,
 “ or elsewhere out of the house. It
 “ was with a good deal of difficulty
 “ that she obtained this request, not-
 “ withstanding the fondness that he had
 “ for her: however, for quietness sake,
 “ he was obliged to consent, and put
 “ you out to board at a nunnery, whi-
 “ ther you was accordingly sent. In a
 “ little time after, either you had men-
 “ tioned somewhat of what you had
 “ seen, or that she was seized with a
 “ groundless fear, or rather what I
 “ take

THE CAPTIVE. 41

“take to be the case, being willing to
“get rid of me, I saw her one night
“come into my room while your father
“was asleep, and with a countenance
“strongly marked with fear she informed
“me, that I was absolutely ruined, that my
“master was acquainted with the whole
“affair, and that the only thing I had
“to do was to save myself by immedi-
“ate flight. Upon which she gave me
“some money, and seeing that I was dis-
“posed to follow her advice, she took
“her last leave of me. As the keys of
“the house were always in my posses-
“sion it was no difficult matter for me
“to make my escape. I took a black
“suit of cloaths of your father’s to dis-
“guise myself in, and as soon as it was
“day, I hired a felucca, which carried
“me to Leghorn, where I met with a
“ship that was going to carry a present
“to

42 THE CAPTIVE.

“ to the Dey, who made use of all his
 “ interest with the Prince to have me
 “ reinstated in my possessions, which
 “ had been given away on the suppo-
 “ sition of my being dead ; but, not be-
 “ ing able to bring this about, he in re-
 “ compense, gave me the post of secre-
 “ tary,³⁴ which is no great matter of
 “ profit in this country. This is the
 “ whole of my history ever since I left
 “ Italy. In return, I should be much
 “ obliged to you,” continued he, “ if
 “ you would give me the sequel of
 “ yours, of which I am wholly igno-
 “ rant, having had no intelligence
 “ of any kind from Genoa since my de-
 “ parture.”

“ The rest of my story,” said Isabella
 (whom we shall call as yet by the name
 of Charlotte) “ is only full of troubles
 “ and

THE CAPTIVE. 43

“and mi fortunes; the more difficult
“to be related, because reflecting only
“shame upon a girl of my quality;
“but I will pass over these several dif-
“ficulties.

“After having been two years in the
“nunnery, my father, moved with my
“complaints, took me home; where, dur-
“ing the time I staid, I underwent a con-
“tinual persecution from my mother-in-
“law, who, having daily more and more
“influence over my father, made him
“believe just what she pleased. She
“had engaged in fresh intrigues, which
“was in reality the cause of the fear
“she had instilled into you, for my father
“never had the least suspicion of your
“intercourse, and was extremely sorry
“for your elopement, thinking that he
“had lost one of the best servants he
“ever

44 THE CAPTIVE.

“ever had. He had designed to have
“given you your freedom, where-
“fore he did not make any enquiries
“after you as he might have done.

“I was become a little more clear-
“sighted. What I already knew of
“my mother-in-law’s behaviour made
“me suspicious of every thing she did.
“I watched her more narrowly, and in
“a few days I found she had got a
“new lover. You may easily believe
“that, after what she had done against
“me, I acted in opposition to her as
“much as I could. Women never
“forgive one another: but besides the
“consideration of being avenged, I
“was likewise engaged by the ties of
“honour. This encreased the enmity
“between us to a greater height than
“ever, and my father found it a very
“difficult

THE CAPTIVE. 45

“difficult matter to satisfy us both.
“She at first thought that, by making
“you go out of the house, she alone
“would be strong enough to encounter
“me, and to speak out boldly without
“fearing any thing; but finding by
“the continual impediments that I threw
“in her way, by the piqued railleries with
“which I stung her whenever we met,
“and by other evident tokens of my
“resentment, that I had got to the bot-
“tom of her secret, there was no me-
“thod that she left unattempted to ruin
“me in my father’s opinion. Nay, she
“went so far as to threaten that she
“would not stay in the house with him if
“I did. She at length got the better of
“me, inasmuch that, as I refused return-
“ing to the nunnery, he was forced to
“send me to several of my relations,
“sometimes to one and then to another,
“with

46 THE CAPTIVE.

“ with whom I lived at different times,
 “ to the great discontent of the whole
 “ family, till at last a Grandee of Spain,
 “ an old friend of his going through
 “ Genoa to Naples, of which he had
 “ lately been made the Viceroy, my
 “ father desired him to take me un-
 “ der his protection, which he did with
 “ a great deal of pleasure, and I was
 “ treated by him and the Vice-Queen
 “ his wife, not as a daughter of an in-
 “ timate friend, but as their own. They
 “ were continually conferring favours
 “ upon me, so that I thought myself
 “ very happy in my situation. And
 “ indeed I did not deceive myself in
 “ these beginnings of their affection, for
 “ they increased daily, especially in the
 “ lady, who seemed so fond of me as
 “ not to be able to live without me.

THE CAPTIVE. 47

“ She had been extremely handsome,
“ and had still the remains of beauty,
“ though she was now advanced in
“ years. She used no manner of reserve
“ towards me, she even communicated
“ her deepest thoughts, and I not only
“ partook of all her diversions, but was
“ likewise her confidant upon every
“ occasion. This friendship lasted long;
“ but from one woman to another, and
“ especially in love affairs, an attach-
“ ment is soon broken through.

“ I was accounted not ugly, and hav-
“ ing asufficiency to make a figure
“ with, I lived in that court with a good
“ deal of splendour and dignity. Every
“ body knew that I was of a noble fa-
“ mily at Genoa, and this, joined to my
“ beauty, drew a number of admirers
“ and pretenders to me, so that balls
“ and

48 THE CAPTIVE.

“ and assemblies were continually made
“ upon my account.

“ The court of Naples, has been
“ reckoned the most given to gallantry,
“ of any in Italy, and this on account
“ of the vast number of people of qua-
“ lity that are in that kingdom; but it
“ never was so agreeable as at that
“ time. As for me, who did not know
“ what love was, and who was young
“ enough not to be in much haste to
“ learn, I diverted myself with the af-
“ fiduities and sighs of all my lovers.
“ But love at length took an ample re-
“ venge, and diverted himself at last, at
“ my expence. I had not yet found the
“ man who had the secret of affecting
“ my heart, not one who was capable
“ of pleasing me, although there were
“ persons of all sorts of dispositions, and
“ among

THE CAPTIVE. 49

“among them some that did not want
“for merit. The Viceroy’s son, who
“was a young lord of great accom-
“plishments, and who was continually
“expressing a great tenderness for me,
“did nothing but teaze me ; but I paid
“dearly at the last for the scorn and
“indifference which I had hitherto
“shewn.

“About six months after my com-
“ing to Naples, there appeared at court
“a young gentleman whom love seemed
“to have brought there purposely for
“my destruction. It was the mar-
“quis Grimaldi, as considerable for
“the fine qualities of his person, as for
“the illustriousness of his family : a
“young man, who wanted nothing to
“add to the beauty of his outward ap-
“pearance, but was within, as much a

50 THE CAPTIVE

“ sink of perfidy and malice as can pos-
 “ sibly be conceived; when you have
 “ heard the whole of this narrative, I
 “ doubt not but you will agree with
 “ me in the character I have given
 “ him.

“ One can never thoroughly hate
 “ what one has once perfectly loved.
 “ I feel, notwithstanding the outrage I
 “ have received from him, that if I now
 “ saw him, and it was in my power to
 “ avenge myself by putting him to
 “ death, that my partiality would get
 “ the better of my resentment.

“ He was then just come from France,
 “ and had imbibed that air of a courtier
 “ which is so peculiar and so natural
 “ to the people of quality of that na-
 “ tion. I was extremely pleased with
 “ his

THE CAPTIVE. 51

“ his appearance the first time I saw
“ him at court, and indeed perceived this
“ liking in myself with some shame and
“ uneasiness. He presented himself
“ continually to my view, which was
“ attended with a farther degree of
“ anxiety. I endeavoured to drive him
“ from my thoughts, but the oftner I
“ attempted it the more I perceived
“ that he took root in them: I saw
“ him several times, and would fain
“ have persuaded myself, in order to
“ free my mind from the continual un-
“ easiness that it now felt, that I had
“ no great affection for him; but I
“ discovered at length that I had been
“ very ingenious in deceiving myself.
“ What contributed to my ruin was,
“ that, on his side, he seemed, by his
“ looks and actions, to give me the
“ preference to all the other ladies of

52 THE CAPTIVE.

“the court, and though he did not de-
 “clare himself openly, yet I could not
 “help observing that I was by no
 “means indifferent to him; and even
 “went so far as to imagine to myself
 “what he, in all probability, would
 “say, if he had but an opportunity.

“The Viceroy’s lady, who was much
 “diverted in discoursing with me of
 “the several intrigues of the court, af-
 “ter having talked to me a great while,
 “first of one, and then of the other,
 “asked me at last if I did not know
 “who was the Marquis Grimaldi’s
 “mistress, because she had observed
 “that he had lately been very thought-
 “ful and solitary; and she concluded
 “it must be the effect of some amo-
 “rous passion.

“Had

THE CAPTIVE. 53

“ Had the Viceroy’s lady looked in
“ my face at the time that she asked
“ me this question, she would have
“ easily discovered the part that I took
“ in the affair, for I changed colour I be-
“ lieve three or four times; but we were
“ luckily walking on a terrace which
“ opened a fine prospect to the coun-
“ try, and accordingly employed that
“ lady’s contemplation so much that
“ she did not take any notice of it, but
“ gave me time to recover; after which
“ I gave her an answer with extreme
“ indifference, that he was a very giddy
“ young man, who I believed was
“ incapable of being seriously in love;
“ and thereupon I began, without any
“ reason that I can give for so doing,
“ to draw a picture of him not much
“ to his advantage; and bearing the
“ less resemblance to him, inasmuch

54 THE CAPTIVE.

“ as it was directly the reverse of what
“ I really thought of him. The Vice-
“ Queen, after having given me a
“ look which had like to have discon-
“ certed me, laughed very heartily.

“ Is it possible, said she, that you
“ can think thus of a man whom the
“ ladies are in general so excessively
“ fond of? If I was not very well ac-
“ quainted with you, and knew that
“ perfect indifference which you enter-
“ tain toward all men in general, I
“ should believe just the contrary of
“ what you have been saying: how-
“ ever, take care of yourself, for,
“ sooner or later, every one comes to it,
“ and those insensible hearts have their
“ times for loving as well as others.
“ As to me, continued she, all I have
“ to say to you is, that if I was in your
“ place,

THE CAPTIVE. 55

“ place, I should be very much pleased
“ with him, and that you ought by no
“ means to despise him. Consider, he
“ has a great deal of desert, and all other
“ qualifications that ought to recom-
“ mend him to your notice.

“ Who would not have thought, by
“ this discourse of the Vice-Queen,
“ that she was really in earnest; and
“ who would have mistrusted her after
“ the several favours that she was daily
“ heaping upon me? I know not whe-
“ ther I was in the wrong or no, but I
“ was just going to unsay before her all
“ that I had just said against the mar-
“ quis, and to own to her that I had
“ already formed the same opinion
“ which she seemed willing to inspire
“ me with; but modesty with-held me,
“ and I thought my reputation was

D 4 “ concerned.

56 THE CAPTIVE.

“ concerned to let my lover speak to
 “ me before I owned the conquest he
 “ had made.

“ I will not lay before you that la-
 “ dy’s design exactly, because I myself
 “ could never rightly comprehend
 “ what it was; but, as far as I could
 “ judge, from what followed, it was
 “ through jealousy that she had ques-
 “ tioned me in the manner abovementi-
 “ oned, in order to endeavour to dis-
 “ cover whether there were not some
 “ beginnings of tenderness in my heart
 “ for the marquis. She had often seen
 “ us together; and knowing, from ex-
 “ perience, that it was almost impos-
 “ sible to be frequently with so accom-
 “ plished a young gentleman without
 “ being greatly prejudiced in his be-
 “ half, she did not doubt but that I
 “ had

THE CAPTIVE. 57

“ had relinquished my former insensibility in his favour. But observing by my answers that I persisted in the same indifference to him as to all other men, her jealousy gave place to the policy of love, and she was for having me contract a kind of intimacy with him, which might serve her for a pretence to see him as often as she pleased. This I believe was the motive of her acting in that manner, and of her telling me that if I had any intention to begin a love affair, I could not possibly fix upon a more proper object.

“ I did not now oppose her as I had done at the beginning of this conversation; I only told her, that freedom was so valuable a treasure, that if the preservation of it depended on me

58 THE CAPTIVE.

“ alone, I would not give it up for any
 “ consideration whatsoever: but since
 “ women were not intended to enjoy it
 “ all their lives, however disagreeable
 “ in some respects it might prove, I
 “ should conform to the advice of my
 “ friends, and would blindly follow the
 “ directions of those who had a right
 “ so to do. Upon this she took me in
 “ her arms, and told me, that if all
 “ women were of my opinion, it would
 “ be happy for them indeed; that,
 “ however, it was her advice to suffer
 “ the marquis’s visits sometimes.

“ But, madam, said I interrupting
 “ her, has he asked your leave? She
 “ smiled at the question, and told me
 “ that I need not trouble myself much
 “ about that; that I might believe
 “ the proposal did not come from her,
 “ and

THE CAPTIVE 59

“ and that the marquis himself had at
“ least a great share in it.

“ You may imagine how delighted
“ I was at hearing this, especially as
“ there was nothing that I desired so
“ much as the being beloved by him.
“ This conversation being ended, we
“ parted, each of us with sentiments
“ very distant from the truth; she ima-
“ gining that I should always remain
“ insensible and be never brought to
“ feel the passion of love, and I per-
“ suaded that what she had said was
“ out of kindness and good will towards
“ me.

“ This young lord began to shew
“ himself a good deal more frequently
“ at our house than before. The
“ friendship that subsisted between him

60 THE CAPTIVE.

“ and Don Alphonso, the Viceroy’s
 “ son, gave him a hearty welcome
 “ whensoever he pleased ; and the
 “ Viceroy himself having a great esteem
 “ for the Marquis, not only permitted
 “ him very willingly to come to his
 “ house, but engaged him by his con-
 “ tinual civilities to frequent it. I need
 “ not say what the Vice-queen did.
 “ As in all appearance she had a de-
 “ sign upon his heart, you may be sure
 “ that she forgot no inducement that
 “ could incite him to come thither
 “ often.

“ The first part of the time he
 “ seemed wholly taken up in endea-
 “ vouring to please me, but all of a
 “ sudden the beginnings of this passion
 “ entirely disappeared, and I became
 “ sensible of it with great astonishment

“ at

THE CAPTIVE. 6B

“ at a time when I expected it the
“ least; and when I was preparing to
“ give him an opportunity of declaring
“ his sentiments to me, which I ima-
“ gined he had as yet smothered, either
“ through respect or fear of displeasing
“ me. I could not conceive what could
“ be the cause of so sudden an alteration.
“ He was absent three whole days, and
“ when he came he was quite indif-
“ ferent, and hardly vouchsafed to look
“ at me. You may guess at my cha-
“ grin. I was just going to ask him
“ the reason of this behaviour, but was
“ immediately prevented by a rising
“ pride. I looked upon these proceed-
“ ings of his as a manifest breach of
“ faith, and in a moment conceived a
“ great aversion for him, which in a
“ very little while I thoroughly re-
“ pented of; for I did nothing but cry
“ for

62 THE CAPTIVE.

“ for the space of two days, and
“ complain of my love and weak-
“ nefs.

“ The Vice-queen who perceived
“ my melancholy, although I used all
“ possible means to conceal great part
“ of my concern, asked me the reason
“ of it: she was pretty sure in her
“ own mind of the cause of it, but she
“ had a mind to have the malicious
“ pleasure of hearing it from my-
“ self.

“ As till then I had' no reason to
“ mistrust her, I did not wholly hide
“ the cause of my anxiety, and told her
“ no one had contributed more towards
“ it than herself. She did not immedi-
“ ately understand me, or at least pre-
“ tended that she did not; upon which
“ I ex-

THE CAPTIVE. 63

" I explained myself, and told her that
" the account she had given me of the
" Marquis had produced in me a dis-
" position not to hate him.

" You may well imagine that as she
" was in reality my rival, though at
" that time I knew nothing of the mat-
" ter, this confession of mine gave her
" great reason to triumph and to laugh
" at me inwardly: I must own I
" ought to have known better, but
" the confidence that I had in her
" blinded me extremely. And when
" I think on several things which were
" both done and said, I cannot conceive
" how any one who had seen so much
" of life as I had, should have so little
" discernment in that affair as I then
" shewed by my behaviour. However,
" by length of time, I comforted my-
" self

64 THE CAPTIVE.

“ self in such a manner, that I began
 “ to think I grew every day less sen-
 “ sible of my misfortunes.

“ One day that the Viceroy gave an
 “ entertainment in his garden, having
 “ separated myself from the rest of the
 “ company in order to take a solitary
 “ walk in a retired grove, I saw my
 “ lover coming towards me. I then
 “ concluded that it was the effect of
 “ what the Vice-queen had said to him
 “ that made him now come to seek a
 “ reconciliation with me. I know not
 “ whether the disdainful and solemn air
 “ with which I accosted him did not
 “ discourage him a little, for he spoke
 “ to me in a very trembling voice, and
 “ said, that it was very strange to see a
 “ person of my disposition walking
 “ alone, when there was so much com-
 “ pany.

THE CAPTIVE. 65

“pany in the other parts of the garden;
“that one might easily account for
“such behaviour in other persons, as one
“might easily believe that it was the ef-
“fect of amorous thoughts, but for you—

“For me! Sir, said I, interrupting
“him, why may not I be brought hi-
“ther on that account as well as any
“one else? Alas! madam, replied he,
“every one knows you too well to
“suspect any such matter; and if it is
“possible to love any thing it can be only
“yourself. But, said I, I suppose by
“your reproaching me in this manner,
“you yourself are not insensible of that
“passion: and indeed I have heard as
“much. You have heard then, ma-
“dam, returned he, what is very true;
“for it is a quality that I never denied,
“and less when in your company than
“in

66 THE CAPTIVE.

“ in any one's else. In my company,
 “ said I, you knew very well that I was
 “ insensible. It is true madam, replied
 “ he, that I had heard so, but still I was
 “ resolved to try. There is no know-
 “ ing, said I, what one may be. All
 “ of us have our particular times and
 “ seasons. I could not say this with-
 “ out blushing a little, and he was go-
 “ ing to make me some reply when
 “ the Vice-queen, who lost sight of us
 “ as little as possible, came and inter-
 “ rupted us unseasonably enough.

“ I would lay a good wager, said
 “ she smiling, that you were talking
 “ of love. It is very true, replied I,
 “ we were discoursing about a reproach
 “ that the Marquis has been making
 “ me of my insensibility. He has
 “ great reason, returned the Vice-queen,
 “ to

THE CAPTIVE. 67

“ to reproach you, since he is the most
“ amorous man himself that I ever
“ heard of. If you did not know it
“ before, I now give you warning of
“ it, and whenever you are at leisure I
“ can inform you of some particulars.
“ I believe I am sufficiently his friend,
“ said I, to be obliged to no one else
“ for information in this matter besides
“ himself; and when we are alone I
“ know very well what complaints I
“ have to make upon that head. All
“ this was said with an air of raillery,
“ which did not lose its effect in the least.

“ The next day, the Marquis, who
“ probably had thought on what I had
“ said to him, having found me alone
“ by a window of the palace, from
“ whence I was looking upon some
“ people that were trying of horses, he
“ came

68 THE CAPTIVE.

“ came up to me, and falling insensibly
“ into the same discourse that we had
“ the day before, he asked me whether,
“ notwithstanding my insensibility, I
“ should be angry if any one should be
“ excessively in love with me. I told
“ him that there were very few people
“ in the world from whom I could
“ bear it, and there was but one man
“ in that kingdom to whom I could for-
“ give it. This I thought, was say-
“ ing enough, and the look with which
“ I could not help accompanying my
“ words, confirmed but too well that he
“ was the person whom I meant. He
“ observed it but took no advantage.
“ I know very well, madam, said he, that
“ an equality in birth and great personal
“ merit are qualifications that are abso-
“ lutely requisite to the acquisition of
“ your

THE CAPTIVE. 69

"your esteem; but the person I mean pos-
 "sesses these perfectly. As I found he
 "took this so contrary to my intention,
 "I had not patience to let him go on,
 "concluding, but too well, that it was
 "not in favour of himself that he had
 "made this declaration. The lover
 "that possesses the qualities of the
 "Marquis Grimaldi, said I, would
 "not perhaps displease, but every other
 "would come rather late. I had no
 "sooner spoke these words, but I re-
 "pented of what I had said, and not
 "being willing to hear any more, in
 "the confusion that I was in I retired.
 "Heavens! cried he following me,
 "how miserable then am I! misera-
 "ble! said I, turning towards him. Is
 "the esteem that I have just owned for
 "you the cause of it? Yes, madam,
 "said he sighing very deeply, that too

70 THE CAPTIVE.

“ precious and charming esteem which
 “ I was told it was impossible to ac-
 “ quire, and for which I would have
 “ given every thing that I had in the
 “ world.—He then stopped. Well,
 “ what of this esteem, cried I, in or-
 “ der to induce him to go on. Alas!
 “ madam, said he, I have been un-
 “ fortunately obliged to renounce it.
 “ I had no sooner heard these words,
 “ but I still kept on my way, looking
 “ at him every now and then in a
 “ manner that denoted my indignation.
 “ But finding that he still followed me,
 “ I made a signal to him with my hand
 “ to withdraw, not being able to speak
 “ through the concern with which I
 “ was affected.

“ With what despair was I seized!
 “ and how uneasy a night did I then
 “ pass!

THE CAPTIVE. 71

“ pass! Rage, shame, jealousy and re-
“ pentance, seized hold of me at once.
“ I perceived that I was laughed at and
“ betrayed. It made me so ill that I
“ kept my bed several days. I de-
“ signed to speak to him once more,
“ in order to inform myself who it was
“ that had made him renounce me. I
“ thought at first that it was Don Al-
“ phonso, but I had a great mind to
“ enquire how that had happened, and I
“ expected every day to see him either
“ with his friend or the Vice-queen,
“ in order to have an opportunity of
“ talking with him upon that subject.
“ However, he did not come into my
“ room, although almost the whole
“ court did me that honour during the
“ little time I was indisposed, which
“ indeed surprized me a good deal;
“ but, having heard him one day in
“ the

72 THE CAPTIVE.

“ the antichamber, I sent the girl that
 “ waited upon me to desire him to come
 “ and see me. The girl told me that
 “ he would come presently; but the
 “ Vice-Queen, with whom he was
 “ then talking, prevented him, which
 “ made me likewise very much asto-
 “ nished: but I was much more sur-
 “ prized a little afterwards, when I saw
 “ them come together into my apart-
 “ ment. He looked very pale and
 “ much altered, which contributed not
 “ a little to moderate the resentment
 “ which I had conceived against him,
 “ although I had no great reason at
 “ that time to attribute this paleness
 “ and alteration to myself.

“ You see, madam, said I to the
 “ Vice-Queen, as soon as I saw them
 “ come in together, that one is obliged

“ to

THE CAPTIVE. 73

“to send for this gentleman, if one
 “wishes to have the satisfaction of
 “conversing with him. It is a favour
 “I am not used to confer on any one,
 “nor should I have done it now, had I
 “any remains of esteem left for him;
 “but since I am informed from his own
 “mouth that he has been made to re-
 “nounce it, you may be assured, ma-
 “dam, I am not much inclined to hin-
 “der him. It is true, answered the
 “Vice-queen, he does not deserve
 “your esteem; but he is young and you
 “must pardon him. I will pardon him,
 “replied I; but it must be upon one
 “condition, that he shall inform me
 “who the lady is who has had so abso-
 “lute a power over his heart as to
 “make him slight my favour; and it
 “is for this alone I have now sent for
 “him. He stood speechless, and
 VOL. II. E “seemed

74 THE CAPTIVE.

“ seemed much confounded: when turn-
 “ ing my eyes towards the Vice-queen
 “ to ask her the reason of this silence, I
 “ found her, if possible, more at a loss
 “ than he was. I was just going to
 “ speak, when he rose up and said, with
 “ great perplexity, I will satisfy you
 “ hereafter, madam, in the point you
 “ require; but pardon me if I decline
 “ to do it now, as the present time is
 “ not altogether so proper. Hereafter!
 “ repeated I, with great emotion, and
 “ why not now? Is this the lady who
 “ hinders you? If so, you know I con-
 “ ceal nothing from her. If it is me,
 “ answered the Vice-queen, I will re-
 “ tire, and leave you to your full liber-
 “ ty. With these words she withdrew
 “ to a window in great disorder, which
 “ excited my curiosity more than ever
 “ to hear what the Marquis had to tell
 “ me,

THE CAPTIVE. 75

“me, for which reason I did not say
“any thing to prevent her from retir-
“ing. The Marquis, however, did
“not explain himself any further, but
“put a letter into my hand, which I
“made no scruple to take, as I expected
“to find in it the secret which I so
“much wanted to know. She imme-
“diately withdrew without saying a
“word.

“The Vice-queen then came up to
“me, and said, well, madam, what
“makes the Marquis go away, without
“discovering the person you have so
“much reason to hate? But I will tell
“you, and perhaps you will be some-
“what surpris'd when informed that
“it is myself. I let her go on,
“for in the astonishment into which
“this confession had thrown me, I was

76 THE CAPTIVE.

“ not sufficient mistress of myself to
 “ make her any rational answer. You
 “ must know, said she, that, after hav-
 “ ing told me one day that the great
 “ regard which he had for my son hav-
 “ ing obliged him in a manner to give
 “ over all thoughts of you, and, in
 “ consequence of that, having attached
 “ himself to another lady, I asked him,
 “ who it could possibly be. Upon
 “ which he was so insolent as to tell
 “ me, that I myself was the person. I
 “ treated him in the manner that you
 “ may easily imagine I should do up-
 “ on such a declaration. I concluded
 “ that he had taken advantage of the
 “ complaisance with which I had hi-
 “ therto treated him; but as I saw him in
 “ a little time return to a right behaviour,
 “ I abated of my rigour, having a mind
 “ to let him see that he wronged him-
 “ self

THE CAPTIVE. 77

“ self greatly, and that he ought not to
“ have given up, in the manner which
“ he had done, the esteem of a young
“ lady, who was every way so deserv-
“ ing of him; and that, besides, he spent
“ his time very ill in addressing him-
“ self to me who did not desire to be
“ engaged in any matters of that kind.

“ I knew very well the character
“ and disposition ~~that~~ were so peculiar
“ to the Vice-queen, and having had
“ time, all the while she was speaking,
“ to recover from my surprise, and to
“ observe the emotions of her counte-
“ nance, I did not doubt in the least of
“ her treachery.

“ Madam, said I, very seriously,
“ this was engaging in my interest more
“ warmly than either I deserved, or

78 THE CAPTIVE.

“ even desired. You had already told
 “ me that, if you were in my place,
 “ the Marquis would have been very
 “ agreeable to you; and the sacrificing
 “ him, when he preferred you to me,
 “ was going a great way indeed. One
 “ of us most certainly is deceived, and
 “ betrayed: which of us it is perhaps
 “ this note will inform us, which I have
 “ just now received.

“ The Vice-queen, much astonished
 “ at what I had been saying, asked me
 “ whether it came from the Marquis.
 “ I told her it did, and that the only
 “ reason why I took it was, in hopes
 “ that it might give some insight into
 “ this affair. Alas! said she, what
 “ dependence can you have upon a
 “ man who is continually changing;
 “ and who will perhaps say to you one
 “ minute

THE CAPTIVE. 79

“ minute what he has already told me
“ the minute before? The eagerness I
“ felt to read this note was the reason,
“ that I did not make any answer to
“ what she had been saying. The
“ contents of it were as follows :

“ **H**OW unhappy a situation is it for
“ one, in so great an embarrass-
“ ment as I am, to be obliged to follow
“ other emotions than those which his
“ own heart would advise him to ! No-
“ thing ever equalled the ardency of the
“ affection which I have felt for you,
“ ever since the first day that I had the
“ pleasure of seeing you; and, indeed, I
“ may with great confidence affirm,
“ that my passion has not had the least in-
“ termission, notwithstanding the many
“ promises which I have been obliged
“ to make to the contrary. But the
E 4 “ notion

80 THE CAPTIVE.

“ notion of your insensibility having
 “ been artfully instilled into me by per-
 “ sons who, I thought, could not have
 “ the least view in endeavouring to de-
 “ ceive me, took from me all hopes of
 “ being able to acquire your esteem;
 “ and this obliged me to have recourse
 “ to some more indulgent fair, as I
 “ imagined, not through inconstancy,
 “ but to cure me of a passion, the con-
 “ sequences of which I was greatly ap-
 “ prehensive of. Those who advised
 “ me to it offered me, at the same time,
 “ their service and assistance; and in-
 “ deed their complaisance was such,
 “ considering the rank which they held
 “ in life, that I could not possibly have
 “ refused them, even if I had not stood
 “ in need of their offer. But, madam,
 “ there are certain evils which are in-
 “ curable, and those which your eyes
 “ have

THE CAPTIVE. 81

“ have been productive of, are of that
“ nature. If to have had a thought of
“ breaking my chains is a fault, give
“ me leave to assure you that I suffer
“ infinitely greater tortures than you
“ yourself would wish to inflict. And
“ indeed, I know not what effect the
“ remorse for having lost so much time
“ would have, if I had not some hopes
“ of repairing it for the future. Per-
“ mit me then to return to you more
“ in love than ever, and let a hearty
“ repentance blot out the ill impression
“ that you may perhaps have imbibed
“ of my inconstancy ; for however
“ insensible you may be, I am deter-
“ mined to die in your service.

GRIMALDI.”

E 5

“ Oh

32 THE CAPTIVE.

“ Oh the traitor, cryed the Vice-
 “ Queen, doth he dare then to defend
 “ an inconstancy which is so plain; and
 “ doth he endeavour to lay the blame
 “ of his own weakness upon others?
 “ He ought, madam, said I, (without
 “ any emotion) to be heard in his own
 “ defence. If you have a mind to be
 “ present, we will send for him in
 “ order to see how he will clear him-
 “ self from what is laid to his charge.
 “ I be present! said she; all I have
 “ done in the affair is entirely upon
 “ your account. I have told you the
 “ truth, and after that you are to act in
 “ what manner you think proper. If
 “ however, you would take my advice,
 “ I think you should see him no more.
 “ That cannot be, madam, said I, and if
 “ it were only to know who the per-
 “ sons are that he makes mention of in
 “ the

THE CAPTIVE. 83

“note, I should not be able to help
“seeing him once more, and then I
“should be left at liberty to act accord-
“ing to my own discretion. I had
“scarce said this when I saw him come
“into the room.

“I suppose he imagined that the
“Vice-queen would not stay long with
“me after he was gone, and the impa-
“tience that he had to know the suc-
“cess of his note, or perhaps the de-
“sire of informing me of the several
“particulars which I wanted to know,
“was the reason of his return. He
“was much surprised at seeing us still
“together. I found he was just
“going back again, but I desired him
“to stay.

84 THE CAPTIVE.

“ The Vice-queen, embarrassed a good
 “ deal by the arrival of the Marquis,
 “ and by the apprehensions that she
 “ had of my forcing him to clear up
 “ this matter, got up immediately, and
 “ taking him by the hand, I have, said
 “ she, turning at the same time towards
 “ me, something very particular to say
 “ to him; afterwards you may say what
 “ you please to him concerning your
 “ doubts. I let them go out without
 “ saying a syllable, and expected in-
 “ deed to have seen the marquis return;
 “ but in vain, for he did not make his
 “ appearance all that day.

“ I was well enough to have ap-
 “ peared at court, but as there was
 “ to be a ball at night I pretended
 “ to be still indisposed and went thi-
 “ ther in a mask, in order to have an
 oppor-

THE CAPTIVE. 85

“ opportunity of speaking to the Mar-
“ quis. My design did not succeed,
“ for he was not there. By going
“ backwards and forwards continually
“ in search of him, I was at length
“ known by the Vice-queen; who, al-
“ larmed at this disguise, followed me
“ when I went out of the ball-room,
“ even into my own apartment.

“ Well, said she, what news from
“ the Marquis? Nay, madam, re-
“ plied I, you are the fittest person to
“ answer that question yourself, for I
“ have not seen him since yesterday,
“ when you was unwilling to trust him
“ with me to clear up an affair of some
“ importance, in my opinion. I think
“ it is sufficiently cleared up, said she:
“ How, madam, said I interrupting her,
“ can that be, since I have never
“ seen.

86 THE CAPTIVE.

“ seen him since? And yet, said she, I
“ have heard that you were both masked
“ to night.

“ The Vice-queen, who had a mind
“ to quarrel with me, insisted that it
“ was true, upon which, without any
“ hesitation, I gave her my thoughts
“ of her pretty freely, which enraged
“ her to the last degree, and made her
“ say so many cruel and disobliging
“ things that I could not help crying;
“ and being unwilling that she should
“ be an eye witness of my weakness,
“ I got up in order to retire to my
“ closet.

“ Do you not want retirement, said
“ she, in order to meditate on the per-
“ fections of your adorable Marquis;
“ or

THE CAPTIVE. 87

“ or rather, said she, in order to add
“ railing to railing, are you not going
“ to your closet to meet him? What
“ you have been saying, madam, re-
“ plied I, is altogether so unworthy
“ both of you and me, that passion
“ alone could be capable of inspiring
“ you with such a thought. How do I
“ know, said she; why ought I to have
“ more confidence in you than you have
“ in me? and upon that she took a light
“ and went towards the closet. I saw
“ her do it, and saw it with a contempt
“ and indifference that provoked her
“ much more than any thing I could
“ have said to her. She only acted in
“ that manner in order to mortify me,
“ not imagining she should find what
“ she pretended to look for. However,
“ by the most unlucky accident in the
“ world, and without my knowing any
“ thing

88 THE CAPTIVE.

“ thing of the matter, the Marquis was
 “ found in the closet. She saw him as
 “ soon as she opened the door, and the
 “ noise that she made thereupon, caused
 “ me to turn my head that way, and as
 “ soon as I perceived what was the mat-
 “ ter, I fell down in a swoon. The
 “ Marquis, seized either with a true or
 “ feigned concern, threw himself at my
 “ feet, and could not help weeping. I
 “ could not tell what the Vice-queen
 “ had said to him, but one of my wo-
 “ men who came to my assistance in-
 “ formed me, that she went out in a
 “ great fury.

“ When I was recovered from my
 “ swoon, I perceived the Marquis on
 “ his knees, with a countenance so
 “ full of concern that more than half
 “ of my anger subsided.

“ What

THE CAPTIVE. 39

“ What have you done ! said I, you
“ have infallibly ruined me. Go, and
“ return not till you have fully justified
“ me to the Vice-queen. He assured
“ me that he had already done it, and
“ that I had not the least reason to be
“ afraid, and that the Vice-queen was
“ convinced that I had nothing to do
“ in the affair. He told me that she
“ had had my room watched so narrow-
“ ly that nothing could come out or in
“ without her knowledge, and that that
“ was the true reason of his not having
“ been to see me before ; but that having
“ observed there was no watch that
“ night, he had ventured to get into
“ my chamber, and for fear any body
“ might see him and give notice of it to
“ the Vice-queen, he had hid himself in
“ my closet, which he had found open.

“ All

90 THE CAPTIVE.

“ All this story was told with such an
 “ air of ingenuoufnefs that it appeafed
 “ me a little. I forbade him ever fery-
 “ ing me in that manner a fecond time,
 “ and whatever pleasure I might find
 “ in his converfation, I defired him to
 “ take his leave for the prefent.

“ I dwell perhaps too much on par-
 “ ticulars,” faid Charlotte. Ofmyn
 having affured her that the circumftan-
 ces ſhe had mentioned were extremely
 interefting, ſhe continued her narration
 in the following manner.

“ The Vice-queen, having quarrellèd
 “ with me, and having a thouſand rea-
 “ ſons for not being pleaſed with the
 “ Marquis, who viſited me continually,
 “ notwithstanding her endeavours to
 “ the contrary, you may eaſily believe
 “ that

THE CAPTIVE. 91

“ that she spent her time very disagree-
“ ably. I gave the Marquis to under-
“ stand as soon as I saw him, that, if
“ he intended to please me, he must in-
“ form me of all his proceedings with
“ the Vice-queen : but he intreated me
“ so earnestly to excuse him, that his
“ discretion got the better of my curio-
“ sity, and I even esteemed him the
“ more for it. However, he did not
“ conceal from me that the Vice-queen
“ was the person he had spoken of in
“ the note.

“ She wanted very much to recom-
“ cile herself to us, and having found
“ out a plausible pretence, she sent me
“ word, by one of her waiting women,
“ that she should be very glad to see
“ me. I did not fail going to her.
“ She received me very affably, for she
“ was

92 THE CAPTIVE.

“ was a perfect mistress of the art of
 “ dissimulation; and, after some com-
 “ pliments, took me into her closet,
 “ where, having begun her discourse
 “ with a deep sigh, well my dear Isa-
 “ bella, said she, are you still enraged
 “ against me? I am extremely sorry,
 “ madam, said I, that you have given
 “ me an opportunity. Are you wil-
 “ ling, said she, that we should entirely
 “ drop what is past, and that I should
 “ give you undoubted proofs of the
 “ sincerity of my friendship for you?
 “ I should wish it extremely, madam,
 “ replied I. Come tell me honestly,
 “ said she; suppose the Marquis Gri-
 “ maldi was proposed to you as a hus-
 “ band, are you sufficiently fond of
 “ him not to give him a denial?

“ This

THE CAPTIVE 93

“ This question seemed a little suspicious; she finding by the manner
 “ I received it that I was on my guard,
 “ I do not speak to you, continued she,
 “ as a rival, which you have heretofore
 “ imagined me to be, but as a friend;
 “ and if you are really in earnest in accepting this proposal, you may be
 “ assured that its taking effect depends
 “ only upon yourself. Here is a letter
 “ that the Viceroy has wrote to your
 “ father on that subject, upon the Marquis’s earnest entreaty; and as your
 “ father has great confidence in the
 “ Viceroy, I do not doubt but this affair will be brought to a happy conclusion. The Marquis” (said Charlotte continuing her narrative to Osmyrn) “ had asked my leave to mention it to the Viceroy, and having
 “ understood, therefore, by this letter,
 “ that

94 THE CAPTIVE.

“ that they were really in earnest in
“ endeavouring to marry me to a man
“ who had all the accomplishments I
“ desired, it gave me abundant satisfac-
“ tion, which however I kept to my-
“ self as much as I could; mistrusting
“ always a happiness which proceeded
“ from one whom it cost too dearly
“ not to repent of it. I thanked her
“ however in the most tender and grate-
“ ful manner that words could express;
“ and when we parted, we embraced
“ each other in so loving a manner,
“ that it should seem that we had never
“ been better friends in our lives.

“ Upon my return, I found the
“ Marquis waiting for me in my room,
“ and who, with looks of infinite com-
“ placency, told me the news of our
“ approaching union, and of the per-
“ mission

THE CAPTIVE. 95

“ mission granted him by the Viceroy
“ to visit me without restraint. I told
“ him that I had been informed of
“ these several particulars from a per-
“ son that he would not easily guess,
“ and thereupon related the conver-
“ sation that the Vice-queen and I had
“ had together.

“ The liberty granted the Marquis
“ of visiting me whensoever he would,
“ having increased the affection that we
“ had for each other, it degenerated at
“ length into a tender familiarity. He
“ grew bolder than he ought to have
“ been, or than it was prudence in me
“ to suffer. We were so thoroughly
“ convinced of our mutual fidelity to
“ each other, that we had not the least
“ distrust. But alas ! this oftentimes
“ proves a very dangerous snare. The
“ Marquis,

96 THE CAPTIVE.

“ Marquis, like all other lovers impa-
 “ tient for the possession of the person
 “ they are in love with, and fearing
 “ that something might happen in the
 “ mean time to blast his hopes, gave
 “ me to understand, in the midst of
 “ some little freedoms which I indulged
 “ him in, that he should have been glad
 “ to have been indebted to me alone for
 “ what he was now taught to hope for
 “ from my father; and that indeed if I
 “ loved him in the degree I professed,
 “ I had now an opportunity of shew-
 “ ing it. I pretended not to under-
 “ stand what he meant, but by degrees
 “ he spoke so plain that he left no room
 “ for any farther equivocation, info-
 “ much that I was obliged either to be
 “ angry with him, or to defend myself
 “ with reasons against making any such
 “ concessions. I chose the latter me-
 “ thod,

THE CAPTIVE. 97

“thod, not being able to be angry with
“one whom I loved, but I did not get
“the better. Reasoning in love is
“dangerous. The struggle, however,
“lasted long enough to make me think
“that I had sacrificed sufficiently to my
“vanity; but at length I was obliged
“to surrender: and indeed I thought
“there was no occasion for using so
“much reserve towards one who had
“already engaged his honour to the
“Viceroy to marry me, and on whom
“I could not hesitate relying, on ac-
“count of the numberless protestations
“which he made every day to me.

“He was to come one evening into
“my room, about an hour after every
“one else was in bed; and because my
“apartment was near the Vice-queen’s,
“where I used to go whenever I had a

98 THE CAPTIVE.

“ mind, I told him that I would leave
“ the door open, entreating him at the
“ same time not to make any noise for
“ fear he should be heard.

“ You see Osmyrn that I do not con-
“ ceal any circumstances from you :
“ and although many things might be
“ alledged in extenuation of my fault,
“ yet I cannot even now relate the af-
“ fair without blushing, for I must own
“ that if I had been more discreet, I
“ should not have been so unhappy as
“ I am at present.

“ The Viceroy was that day gone
“ out of town, and every thing seemed
“ to me to favour our design; but, alas!
“ what I foolishly accounted happiness,
“ turned out to my destruction. The
“ hour appointed at last came, and I
“ heard

THE CAPTIVE. 99

“heard a man treading softly in
“my room. I thought it was my lo-
“ver, and received him as such, for he
“was dressed just in the same suit of
“embroidery that I saw him have on
“that day. We passed part of the
“night in an amorous silence, when at
“length by chance he fell asleep.

“As I found myself a little indis-
“posed, I wanted some light; and in
“order to that I ventured to go into the
“Vice-queen’s apartment, adjoining to
“mine, where there was a taper kept
“burning all night. I opened the
“door, and was much surprized, upon
“approaching the table whereon the
“light stood, at peeping in the bed
“whose curtains were quite undrawn
“on account of the excessive heat, to
“see a man asleep laying by her in

100 THE CAPTIVE.

" his clothes. I found myself much em-
 " barrased to know whether I should
 " return or not; but necessity getting
 " the better, I went and lighted my
 " candle, and being desirous of know-
 " ing who this happy lover was, I
 " viewed him, and observed he had the
 " dress of the Marquis Grimaldi. This
 " adventure quite confounded me, and
 " had I not been almost assured that I
 " had just left him in my room, I do
 " not know what I should have done.
 " This circumstance incited my curio-
 " sity more than ever. I examined the
 " man very attentively, and found him
 " to be of the same size and have the
 " same hair, also, as the marquis. As
 " to his face, I could not see that, be-
 " cause the Vice-queen hid it with her
 " arm. I was seized with a great tre-
 " mor. I then went into my own
 " room ;

THE CAPTIVE 101

"room; but what was my astonish-
 "ment, when I beheld the marquis
 "there too, or at least I believed him
 "to be such. But examining a little
 "closer I found that I had been de-
 "ceived, and that it was in reality Don
 "Alphonso. I laid hold of his sword
 "which he had left upon the table;
 "and pausing which of the traitors I
 "should begin with, I concluded that
 "the marquis was most to blame, and
 "that therefore he ought to be the first
 "sacrifice to my just vengeance. I
 "accordingly went into the other room,
 "but the noise having awakened Don
 "Alphonso, who saw me go into his
 "mother's room with a drawn sword,
 "got up all of a sudden, and running
 "after me, took hold of my arm, just
 "at the instant that I was going to
 "plunge

102 THE CAPTIVE.

“plunge it into the traitor’s breast.
 “He was much astonish’d himself to
 “see the marquis in bed with his mo-
 “ther. A fit of fury seiz’d him; and
 “he was going, through a different
 “motive indeed, to execute the ven-
 “geance which I had intended; when
 “I in my turn intreated him, and
 “throwing myself upon him, said, this
 “stroke is not reserved for thee thou
 “traitor. You shall not have the plea-
 “sure to avenge yourself the first.
 “The sound of these words, and the
 “bustle we made, awakened the Vice-
 “queen and marquis; who, imagining
 “that Don Alphonso was going to kill
 “him, put himself upon the defensive.
 “I left them in this confusion, hoping
 “that they would avenge me of their
 “mutual perfidy; and going into my
 “room,

THE CAPTIVE. 103

“ room, the door of which I bolted to-
“ wards the Vice-queen’s apartment, I
“ took what I had of value in money
“ and jewels, and went out through the
“ other, running through the streets as
“ if I had been mad, in order to look
“ for a felucca that might convey me
“ wheresoever my despair should direct.
“ I was fortunate enough not to find
“ any ready. My impatience would
“ not permit me to stay till they could
“ get one, and I was afraid that my
“ presence would soon be missed, and
“ that they would send to seek after
“ me, to recall me to a court where
“ I had rather die than appear. But
“ at last after much trouble I found a
“ little bark that was going to sail to
“ Barcelona. I did not care whither
“ I was going, provided it were at a
F 4 “ distance

104 THE CAPTIVE.

“ distance from Italy, and that it were
“ in my power to conceal both my
“ name and birth; so that I embarked
“ in it without the least hesitation.

“ I need not tell you the melancholy
“ reflections that employed my thoughts
“ at that time, during the space of two
“ or three days that I was quite alone:
“ but on the fourth, I was interrupted
“ by a fresh attack of misfortune; for,
“ all of a sudden, I heard by break of
“ day a great outcry of the sailors. I
“ thought that we were just going to be
“ swallowed up in some quicksand, but
“ upon enquiry I found that some
“ Turkish gallies were chasing us: in
“ about an hour after they came up
“ with us and took us.

“ I bore

THE CAPTIVE. 105

“ I bore this last misfortune with perfect tranquillity and composure, which astonished all that beheld it. I was only in fear of my person, as I was fallen into the hands of a very barbarous people, who shew little or no regard to the tenderness of our sex. However, whether I was more fortunate in this than others, or whether they had more respect for one who appeared to be of no mean condition, I may truly say that, except their first coming in, which was a little rough, they having broke open the door of the room in which I lay, I was much better treated than I expected. As soon as the soldiers saw me, not one of them attempted to come in. The captain was the only person who took that liberty :

106 THE CAPTIVE.

" he asked me very civilly in Italian
 " who I was, and whither I was going.
 " I concealed from him my true name
 " and quality, and told him that my
 " name was Charlotte, and that I
 " was going to my father at Barcelona,
 " who was in the King of Spain's ser-
 " vice there. I then put into his hands
 " a little casket where my money and
 " jewels were; and in order to induce
 " him to be favourable to me, I told
 " him that its contents were worth
 " twenty thousand crowns, which was
 " indeed the truth; that it was in my
 " power to have thrown it into the sea,
 " as the seamen had done all their mer-
 " chandize, but that I kept it as a pre-
 " sent for him: I only desired in re-
 " turn that he would commit me to the
 " custody

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“ custody of such people as would not
“ use me ill. He promised me he
“ would, and desired me at the same time
“ not to say a word about the casket,
“ assuring me that I should have a share
“ of it when we came to Tunis. I was
“ extremely glad of this circumstance,
“ not out of hope of having any of my
“ jewels restored me, but because this
“ secret made me in a manner useful,
“ and necessary to the captain, and
“ that by this means, I should be much
“ better taken care of; and indeed I
“ had no reason to complain. He
“ carried me on board his own galley,
“ where he gave me his cabin till we
“ landed at Tunis. I fell to the Dey’s
“ lot, who gave me to his wife. This,”
continued Charlotte, “ has been the
“ deplorable lot of a girl who was born

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“in the splendour that you know, and
“must recollect very well.”

The Turk, who knew her family perfectly well, could not sufficiently wonder at the hardness of her destiny; and assured her that it should not be his fault, if she was not happier for the remainder of her life. Charlotte thanked him in the best manner she could; and was extremely comforted that, in the midst of all her misfortunes, she had met with one person entirely devoted to her service, and of whose fidelity she could not entertain the least suspicion.

Osmyn left her a little comforted, and promised to come and sit with her

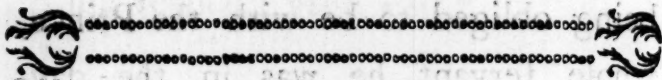
THE CAPTIVE. 109

her part of the succeeding night,
being obliged to be with the Prince,
whose servant he was in the day-
time.

END OF BOOK III.

BOOK

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B O O K IV.

OSMYN being come home was much surpris'd at his Moriscoe's not being returned. He went to bed very uneasy, for fear he should have met with some unlucky accident; and as in the present situation of affairs, it might have been of dangerous consequence to him to have it suspected that he corresponded with the Dey, he repented of having expos'd himself to the possibility of a discovery. The Moriscoe, at length by his arrival, quieted his fears, and told him the reason of his
having

THE CAPTIVE III

having been delayed so long. Osmyn took the Dey's letter and read it; and without waiting till it was later, it being now at the point of day, he sent back his slave, because the time present was much more proper than the evening.

The Dey was extremely surprized at the Moriscoe's quick return; but as soon as he knew the reason, he was not sorry in the least. He hid him in his tent; and as soon as it was night, he sent for the General of the galleys, who was his particular friend and confident.

"Siffredi," said he to him, with an air of great embarrassment, "what would you say to me, if I were to af-

"sure

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“fure you, that I am going to lay this
“night at Tunis?”

“I should fay,” replied the General,
“that you have too much discretion to
“run so great a hazard, unless the
“friends that we have there have pro-
“mised to open the gates to you, and
“you have a mind to involve your
“country in ruin.”

“You do not understand me,” re-
plied the Dey. “When I tell you that
“I have a mind to lay at Tunis to
“night, it is not with an intention to
“produce all that confusion, which the
“execution of just vengeance would
“most infallibly effect; no, I am wil-
“ling to spare the blood of my friends,
“whom in the obscurity of the night
“I might be apt to confound with my
“enemies.

THE CAPTIVE. 113

“enemies. My design was to go at-
“tended only by a Moriscoe whom I
“have here; and to repair to Osmyn,
“in order to know what passes in the
“Divan; then go into the castle, see
“Charlotte and come back again.”

The General listened to him with a
silence which denoted his astonish-
ment. He did not think it necessary
to reason the Dey out of a design so
rash and hazardous.

The Dey, who read in his looks
great part of what he would have said
on the occasion, resumed, “I own,
“this behaviour is rather precipi-
“tate, and will even go so far as to con-
“fess that it is indiscreet, nay farther,
“foolish, but no matter. And in or-
“der to spare you the trouble of de-
“livering

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“livering me your thoughts on this
“occasion, I declare that I did not send
“for you to know whether I should
“put this design into practice or not;
“for I have already resolved on the
“execution of it. The story I have
“heard of my wife, her following the
“Christian, and Charlotte’s being with
“the Prince, are things that are beyond
“my conception. I must be an eye wit-
“ness of this, in order to the being
“convinced. And, in short, to con-
“ceal no part of the story from you,
“one of my main motives is the most
“ardent passion that ever man felt.”

The Dey was then silent, in order to
hear what Siffredi had to say, who, hav-
ing held his eyes down to the ground
for some time, lifted them up on a sud-
den towards Heaven, and said, “God
“preserve

THE CAPTIVE. 115

“preserve you from the misfortunes
“which you seem to be so industriously
“seeking; but if it is thus decreed,
“you cannot avoid your destiny.” He
then laid before him the several impediments and dangers that he would meet with, even before he came to Osmyn; insomuch that it was almost impossible for him to do any one of the things which he desired; that he would never be able to get into the castle without being known, and that it was hazardous too much for the sake of seeing a Christian, to risk the destruction of himself and friends. All these arguments were vain. The Dey did not so much as hear them with any patience.

As soon as it grew dark he disguised himself as well as he could, and set out
with

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with the Moriscoe, who conducted him the same way that he had gone the night before. They entered the city without any obstruction, unless indeed that, when they were just come to Osmyn's house, they fell in with a party of the Divan, all sworn enemies of the Dey; but who, by great good luck, did not know him. He was indebted for his preservation to the Moriscoe, who being a man of great presence of mind, told those who wanted to examine him, that he had got a man with him that was sick of the plague, whom he was carrying to a physician. Upon this they retired, leaving the way open to him and the pretended sick man.

Osmyn, much surprised at seeing the Dey come to him, "Is it possible, my lord,

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“lord,” said he, embracing him, “that
“you have run this hazard?”

The Dey immediately burst out a laughing; and, taking in good part what Osmyn had said to him, asked him whether he had ever been in love; and whether he did not know that love had been the cause of men’s committing great faults, and that they had been constantly excused upon that account.

“But what signifies your love,” replied Osmyn, “Is not the object
“of your affection confined in the
“castle?”

“Very true,” replied the Dey, “but
“since she is committed to your custody,
“today, it is not impossible for me to see
“her.”

Osmyn

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Osmyn would fain have dissuaded him from his design, but he succeeded no better than the General did.

In order to see Charlotte it was necessary that he should go into the castle, which he could not do by night, because then the gates were only opened to Osmyn and the principal officers; nor was it much more practicable by day, for the strictness with which they examined every one that offered to go in, was very great. However, notwithstanding all these difficulties, the Dey resolved to go; and the only invention Osmyn could think of was, to put him in a sack of meal, of which he was ordered to send a load to the castle the next day.

Accord-

THE CAPTIVE. 119

Accordingly on the morrow, the sacks being ready, they put them into a cart, not forgetting the Dey, who was placed in as easy a posture as the situation would admit of. The Moriscoe drove the cart, and Osmyn walked before it. The gates were immediately opened; they did not take the trouble to examine the provisions which the Prince's secretary conducted himself, so that he got safely into the storehouse; but Osmyn, thinking it improper for him to go to Charlotte till it was dark, left him there all day, and Osmyn took the key away in his pocket. Charlotte, who did not speak to a soul all day, waited for night with great impatience, because at that time Osmyn used generally to come and comfort her; but the time of his coming being passed, she was much disturbed;

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turbed; when at last she heard her room door open, and having got up to go and meet Osmyn, "If you knew," said she, "what a person, in my situation and " destitute of friends, suffers, you would " not make me wait in the manner you " have done."

Osmyn smiled, and hurrying towards the Dey whom he had brought along with him, "Here is a man," said he, "who will find means to comfort you, " and for whose sake you will forgive " me for having made you wait."

The Turk had not told the Dey a syllable of Charlotte's having been his old acquaintance, nay he thought it improper to say any thing to him about it. Therefore he immediately on his entrance shewed her the Dey, whom she

THE CAPTIVE. 121

did not know for some time, by reason of his disguise.

“Heavens!” cried she when she discovered him, “is it you, my lord?”
“Alas! whither are you come to seek
“for an unhappy woman that has al-
“ready given you but too much con-
“cern!”

“It is no difficult matter,” said the Dey, “to forgive a person that one
“loves: but is it possible that you are
“here, and have given up your place
“to the Sultana? Tell me whether she
“is the person that has betrayed you,
“or whether Mr. Clifford was the
“traytor. As to myself, when I call
“to mind the several circumstances of
“his departure, and that it was not at
“all his fault, that the Sultana was not
VOL. II. G “dis-

“discovered, since I myself prevented
 “his taking off her cloak, which he
 “would otherwise have done; I cannot
 “in the least suspect him of being privy
 “to the cheat.”

“Mr. Clifford,” said Charlotte,
 “neither went away as a traitor nor as
 “my lover: the only thing I have
 “reason to complain of is my ill for-
 “tune. It is now high time that you
 “should be let into the whole affair.
 “The Sultana, more sensible of the
 “good qualities of the Christian than
 “I was, was willing to make a lover
 “of him; but you have only your-
 “self to thank for this, who fur-
 “nished her with such frequent oppor-
 “tunities of so doing.”

“I never

THE CAPTIVE. 123

"I never designed doing any such
"thing," replied the Dey; "however,
"I can easily forgive this to a woman
"for whom I had not the least regard;
"but the treason of the Christian is
"base beyond expression, who, not-
"withstanding the many favours that
"I was continually heaping upon him,
"presumed to violate the laws of hos-
"pitality."

"The Sultana," replied Charlotte,
"was too fine a woman not to be able
"to corrupt the most faithful man liv-
"ing, and I know not what you your-
"self might have done in such a case,
"if she had been any body's wife but
"your own. She passionately desired
"to see the Christian; you introduced
"him into the seraglio, and she saw
"him. He was well made, she loved

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“ him, nay farther, made a declaration
 “ of her passion; what then could he
 “ do in these circumstances? The
 “ Turks do not make themselves very
 “ uneasy about the unfaithfulness of
 “ their women, more especially when
 “ they have no great esteem for
 “ them, because they can change
 “ whenever they please, and have
 “ always a sufficient change of them
 “ in the seraglio.”

The Dey, already comforted for his loss, told Charlotte that it would be her fault if he was not ten times happier than before. She who in the present conjuncture, thought she should have some need of him, did not give him a plain denial, but only said very gently, that this was not a proper time for love.

“ You

THE CAPTIVE 125

“ You see,” continued she, “ that I
“ am at present under a confinement
“ from whence I know not when I shall
“ be freed.”

“ I know very well,” replied the
Dey, “ that unless you are released with-
“ in three days, the city shall run down
“ with blood.”

“ Alas! my lord,” said she, “ these
“ violent methods would be so far from
“ tending to my preservation, that they
“ would rather hasten my death ; and
“ when they once came to know that
“ I was the cause of their misfortunes,
“ I leave you to judge whether they
“ would shew me any favour. My
“ lord, you will avoid coming to ex-
“ tremities if my life is in reality as dear
“ to you as you pretend; since this is
G 3 fully

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“fully in your power, and things are,
“already in a way to be settled.” “I
“know better than you do what they
“design,” answered the Dey. “They
“want only to amuse me till the forces
“from Tripoli are arrived; but I will
“take care and prevent them, and if
“you will contribute any thing towards
“it, you must resolve to go out from
“hence this very night, and follow
“me.”

“To go out hence!” replied Charlotte.
“What possibility is there of
“doing any such thing, so strictly
“confined and closely guarded as I
“am?”

“And yet you see,” said the Dey,
“that, notwithstanding the doors and
“guards,

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“guards, I am come in, and intend
“going out again, which you may do
“as well as me.”

“But consider, my lord,” replied
she, “that I am a woman, and that,
“besides the great ease that they would
“discover me with, what disguise can
“I put on so as to conceal either my
“shape or manner of walking? And
“the least impediment in either would
“most infallibly betray me.”

Osmyn gave his reasons on this side,
and blamed the undertaking, as of the
utmost danger. “You will find my
“lord,” added he, “by the difficulty
“that we shall meet with in going out,
“how extremely embarrassed we should
“be with a woman. My opinion is
“the same with that of the rest of your
G 4 “friends;

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“ friends; that you ought to come to an
 “ agreement. The troops of Tripoli
 “ will be some time a-coming. If you
 “ keep, therefore, the city blockaded
 “ for some days, you will oblige the
 “ people to sue for peace to the Prince,
 “ who being naturally timid and irreso-
 “ lute, will be glad to make up the
 “ difference.”

The Dey, although disposed to carry things to great lengths, could not stand out against the advice of two people for whom he had so great a regard, and who he knew had no private interest of their own to serve, and could therefore only speak for his advantage, agreed, therefore, to stay eight days longer; after which, if he found both the threats and endeavours of his friends ineffectual, he must then be obliged
 to

THE CAPTIVE. 129

to proceed to extremities, in order to force the Prince to hear reason. Osmyn agreed to this the more readily, inasmuch as he was well acquainted with the situation of affairs, and that having but provisions for two or three days only, they began to murmur already.

The conversation which had for some time been confined to general points, now turned to particulars, and the Dey required Charlotte to relate the detail of the Sultana's amours with Mr. Clifford; all which she told him very ingenuously, not forgetting the affair of the closet, where he had, as he thought, made an assignation with her. Charlotte and Osmyn laughed a good deal at the disappointment which he had then met with; to whom the Dey replied, that he would have been as rea-

dy to laugh as they, if Charlotte had not been in the plot to deceive him. That, as to the Sultana herself, the hatred he had for the father, and the contempt he had for the daughter, were pretty sufficient testimonies that her loss could not give him a great deal of anxiety: however, that he thought Charlotte ought to make him some satisfaction for all the mischievous pranks she had played him, for that, in reality, no body could be more necessary to the Sultana's departure than she was.

The rest of the conversation was made up of raillery, until Osmyn, who was not so much enamoured of Charlotte as the Dey, and had, therefore, nothing engaging to detain him, put him in mind that it was time to depart.

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part. The lover desired permission to stay a little longer, assuring him that there was not the least reason to be apprehensive so long as it continued dark, and that he had not taken so much pains only for a transitory glimpse of his lovely Charlotte. But, at length, Charlotte herself expressed great terror and concern, which indeed she had never been relieved from ever since she had known him to be the Dey; being very apprehensive for fear Osmyn's long stay might cause some suspicion in the guards, or lest he should not be able to get out again if he staid any longer. The Dey, in order to quiet her fears, retired, having renewed his protestations of a most zealous devotion to her service; which he would make manifest, he said, by delivering her from confinement by means of a sudden peace,

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or a long and cruel war; but here a difficulty occurred. There was need of some invention to get out of the castle, because the guards examined people at their going out as strictly as they did at their coming in. Osmyn led him back into the storehouse, where, having covered his face all over with flower, he loaded him with empty sacks, and having thus happily conducted him through the guards, as if he had been one of his people, he luckily got out. As it was not yet day-light, the Dey thought it best to make use of this opportunity to return to his camp, where his presence by this time was extremely necessary. Osmyn conducted him to the town walls, over which he assisted him to climb, and then took his leave. Charlotte was all this time miserably agitated on account.

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account of the Dey's getting out, and indeed her anxiety continued till she saw the faithful Osmyn again.

"Comfort yourself, madam," said he to her the following evening; "the Dey is out of all danger, and things, in all probability, will go much better than they have done."

"Alas! Osmyn," returned she, "they may very well in other respects, but not for me."

"You will be released from your confinement in a few days," replied the Turk.

"I shall," said she, "only exchange prisons: shall go out from this to go into one of the Dey's, which will
"be

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“ be rendered a thousand times more
“ disagreeable, by reason of the passion
“ which he entertains for me. Did
“ you not hear what he said to me?
“ And what will become of me when
“ I am once in his power! Oh! my
“ dear Osmyn,” continued she with
tears in her eyes, “ I foresee but too
“ well the misfortunes with which I am
“ threatened. It would be much bet-
“ ter for me to die in prison than to be
“ released at the price that I fear I am
“ to pay for it.”

“ Osmyn sighed through pity, and
told her, that he had already thought
on what she had said; that she might
depend upon the truth of the assur-
ance which he had given her; namely,
that he would do every thing that lay
in his power towards procuring her the
liberty

THE CAPTIVE. 135

liberty of returning home. After much discourse between them, it was agreed that Osmyn should stir among his friends to persuade the Prince to give Charlotte her freedom, in order to avoid the confusion which would be produced if he was obliged to surrender her up to the Prince, who would take her in the room of his daughter ; but, however, that if this did not succeed, he would endeavour to send her away in a small vessel that he had, which he would have made ready in order to make use of at a minute's warning. Osmyn, who wanted no compliments nor promises to engage him to the performance of what he had said, took his leave without waiting for any reply.

The very next morning he went to a friend of his, the Prince's Aga, who
was

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was a great favourite, and on whom he had great dependance; not only on account of the regard that he had for Christians in general, but for the sake of the intimate friendship that had ever subsisted between them. He found him very much disposed to serve him, but he at the same time desired the favour to see Charlotte. Osmyn, who was apprehensive that the sight of so beautiful a lady might inspire him with a passion which would prove an impediment to their design, would fain have prevented him, by alledging the most plausible reasons to the contrary that he could think of. The Aga, seeing that it amounted to a positive refusal, suspected that Osmyn was in love with her, and hiding his concern told him, that he would use all his interest with the Prince to engage him to give that beautiful
 slave

THE CAPTIVE. 137

slave her freedom. However, he stirred but faintly in the affair, and the Prince, whose interest it was to detain Charlotte, either because he might one day or other exchange her for his daughter, or because, as he knew that the Dey was in love with her, he hoped to have more advantageous terms of peace on that account, did not consent to it.

Osmyrn, enraged that his design had not succeeded, resolved to let her go; or more properly first to carry her off, and then permit her to depart. The Aga on the other hand felt his curiosity exceedingly raised to see her, and being willing to indulge it without laying himself under any obligation to Osmyrn, he asked the Prince leave, in order, as he pretended, to get a more exact information of the several particulars relating

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lating to the Sultana and the Christian slave.

As the Aga was his great favourite, he was unwilling to refuse him a request, of which he rightly judged curiosity to be the true motive, and accordingly gave him an order to see her, that the guards might let him in without asking him any questions. The Aga had heard that she was exceedingly handsome, and besides that she was his country-woman, for he himself was an Italian by birth. He had often enquired of the Prince's servants how long she had been at Tunis, and how she was first taken, but had never been able to get any information. This he proposed now to hear in the most agreeable manner ; namely, from herself.

Osmyn

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Osmyn had been working all day in making ready his vessel under pretence that it was going on a cruize, and had ordered his people, who were almost all of them Christian slaves, to hold themselves in readiness just without the harbour. Charlotte had got every thing ready for her departure. The weather was very fine, infomuch that they were in great hopes of having a very favourable passage. Osmyn went to her, and found her trembling with fear.

“Madam,” said he, “this is the time for you to be more resolute than ever.”

The Turk endeavoured to encourage her and put her in spirits, by reminding her that she was just on the point of regaining her freedom, and that he could convey

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convey her out of the castle without fear or danger. Charlotte, notwithstanding all this, was in such a fright that she did not know what step she should take first in endeavouring to make her escape; when all of a sudden she heard her door open, and turning her head that way beheld a man advancing towards her. "Good God!" cried she, "we are ruined," and instantly fell down in a swoon.

If Osmyn was affected at what had happened to Charlotte, he was not less astonished at the Aga's arrival. He could not conceive what could be the reason of his coming at this time, concluding that he came by the Prince's order. They were both employed in assisting Charlotte as well as they could, but the Aga seemed the most embarrassed

THE CAPTIVE. 141

rassed of them all. He looked at Charlotte with great attention, examined her shape, hair and hands, and after some time sighing very deeply, in an extacy that resembled madness, he cried, "It is she, it is she herself, it is my dear "Isabella!" Then throwing himself at the same time on his knees, he embraced her in such a manner that one would have thought he was going to die with joy.

These words, emotions, and the mention of the name of Isabella, astonished Osmyrn in such a manner that he doubted for some time whether it was really the Aga that he saw or not. In that time Charlotte came to herself a little, and angry to see at her feet a man whom she did not know, and who had just put her into a most terrible fright,
she

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she was willing, by some little artifices that she put in practice, to have got rid of him; but the Aga, quite drowned in tears, stuck to her closer than ever. Charlotte, extremely surprized at this, said to him, "If, Sir, the sight of my misfortunes has excited your pity, I am in the wrong to have been alarmed. I thought that you could not but have come here with some design that was contrary to my wishes."

"How little then do you know," said the Aga, "the person that is before you!"

The voice of this Turk did not seem altogether unknown to Charlotte, who, recollecting herself a little, and casting her eyes upon him in order to consider him more attentively, "Heaven's!"

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cried she, "Who is it that I behold? Is
"it possible? Can it be him?" She had
no sooner uttered these words than she
fainted away a second time in Osmyn's
arms, who, being much embarrassed
entreated the Aga to retire, for fear the
sight of a strange man should at length
prove fatal to the poor lady.

"What do you say?" replied the
Aga; "alas! I am but too well known
"to her, I am the melancholy cause of
"all her misfortunes. Osmyn," con-
tinued he, "I know thy probity, and
"therefore can very safely rely on your
"secrecy. This lady, by her desert as
"well as birth, is well worthy of your
"utmost care and tenderness, and I
"would sooner lose my life than
"that any harm should happen to her."

Osmyn

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Ofmyn longed to have this adventure cleared up to him, but as he was busily employed in recovering Charlotte, he was obliged to put this satisfaction off to some other time. The Aga assisted him with great earnestness. When she came to herself, Ofmyn informed her that the Turk, whom she had seen just before coming in, was the Prince's Aga and great favourite. She made no reply; but turning herself towards the Aga, "What unhappy destiny" said she, "hath brought you hither to persecute and torment me still farther?"

The Aga, as soon as he had heard this, fell down on his knees a second time, and shed a flood of tears, but in vain; for she said, "Permit me to die,"
"an

THE CAPTIVE. 145

“and do not endeavour to seduce me
“again by those deceitful tears.”

Ofmyn, who was an eye witness of so tender a scene, and who had but lately heard from Charlotte the story relating to the Marquis Grimaldi and Don Alphonso, did not know what to think of it. The Aga, who had not been at Tunis much above a year, was not an unlikely person to be one of those, but more probably the marquis than Don Alphonso, because Charlotte, in the midst of her agony, shewed a tenderness for him which she would hardly have done to any person but one for whom she had a great affection. He would fain have known the truth of this, but it was not proper to interrupt them; besides, that he was in hopes of coming to the bottom of it before the scene was

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over. However, finding at length that it grew late, and that they had been silent for some time, both of them sighing excessively, he thought it proper to address himself to the Aga, who was too much Charlotte's friend to conceal any thing from him.

“ Sir,” said he, “ even supposing I
“ were not so well acquainted with you
“ as I really am, what I have just now
“ both seen and heard is sufficient to
“ convince me, that, so far from be-
“ ing any impediment, you will con-
“ tribute as much as you can, towards
“ carrying on the design that we are
“ upon. You may have already per-
“ ceived, by the request that I made
“ yesterday, that I was endeavouring
“ to procure the freedom of this fair
“ slave. My design did not succeed,
“ but

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“but I have another and surer method,
“which, with your leave, we will now
“put into execution, for it is high time.
“You are not ignorant,” continued
Osmyn, “that the Dey is passionately
“fond of the unhappy Charlotte; now,
“if we permit him to remove her from
“hence to his own seraglio, she will be
“shut up for ever.”

The Aga, casting his eyes upon
him, “Let us do, Osmyn,” said he,
“whatsoever you judge expedient for
“the recovery of her liberty. I will
“myself make use of all the power I
“have in the castle to favour your
“design, and to rescue Charlotte
“from the imminent danger that she
“is in.”

H 2

“Oh

148 THE CAPTIVE.

“ Oh thou ungrateful wretch,” said Charlotte, “ dost thou, who art the
“ cause of all my misfortunes, talk of
“ rescuing me from danger ? But I will
“ not lay under any such obligation to
“ you. I had rather die in this prison,
“ that the remainder of the time I have
“ to live may be spent in continually
“ reproaching you.”

“ It is true, madam,” replied the Aga, “ that your indignation is but too
“ justly founded, but I am rather un-
“ fortunate than guilty, and therefore
“ more to be pitied than blamed. Don
“ Alphonso and Clarice, who betrayed
“ us, have atoned for their guilt by death,
“ and if you think me worthy of the
“ same punishment, my life is freely at
“ your disposal. You see me at pre-
“ sent, madam,” continued he, “ in a
“ country

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"country whither the despair at the
"hearing you was dead transported me.
"For, after an exact enquiry of the
"road which you had taken, having
"heard that you had embarked for
"Barcelona, I went there in search of
"you, and when got thither, having
"heard that the Vessel you were in
"had gone to the bottom, and that not
"a soul in it escaped, you may judge
"of the affliction that it threw me into,
"and indeed I know not well how I
"survived it. But Heaven, mollified
"at my tears, preserved me in a won-
"derful manner to have the satis-
"faction of justifying my conduct to
"you."

Charlotte, who listened to this lover
with some complacency, wished in her
heart that he might not really be so

150 THE CAPTIVE.

guilty as she at first believed him, but the appearances were greatly against him. The afflicted Aga, still on his knees, said the most tender things to her that he could imagine in order to appease her.

Osmyrn, who wanted now no farther explanation to know that the Aga was no other than the Marquis Grimaldi, and, moved at his tears, took his part in opposition to Charlotte; who, however, was by no means inflexible, but still she was in a manner obliged to hold out some time longer, that she might not surrender too suddenly, nor without due form. However, as this would take up a considerable deal of time, Osmyrn told the marquis, whom I shall still call the Aga, that if he had a mind to contribute towards the design
which

THE CAPTIVE. 151

which he had before been speaking of, there was no time to lose, the night being far advanced; and they ought, by day break, to be in the bay, where the vessel was waiting for them. The Aga told them that it was absolutely impossible to stir out of the castle that night; because, about two hours before, some spies had given intelligence that the Dey had been in the town that evening; and that upon this the Prince had given orders that no one should either go in or out till it was day light. Charlotte and Osmyn were extremely astonished on hearing this news, and judged by that of the danger the Dey had run of being discovered. The Aga, who saw his charming Isabella a little softened, was willing to take advantage of so favourable a beginning, but she did not shew him the least complacence,

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placence, doing violence all the while to her own inclinations. The Aga desired that some hopes of forgiveness might be afforded. She would not say a syllable, by way of reply, but her eyes may be said to have answered for her, and to have betrayed the sentiments of her heart. The Aga kissed her hand, and upon that retired.

Osmyrn found what the Aga had said to be very true ; so that not being able to get out of the castle he went into a bed that the Aga ordered to be got ready for him ; not to sleep, indeed, for they passed the remainder of the night in recounting each other's adventures. Osmyrn, who had a great curiosity to know what had happened to the marquis, put him upon that discourse as soon as they found themselves alone.

The

THE CAPTIVE. 153

The Aga, who thought he should stand in need of his assistance towards his justification with Charlotte, did not want much intreaty, and knowing that Charlotte had acquainted him with that part of the story which respected herself, he touched only on those incidents which had not come to her knowledge. His narrative was as follows :

“ You must know that I went to
“ Naples, where having found an old
“ acquaintance of mine, Don Alphonso
“ by name, the Viceroy’s son, we re-
“ newed our friendship. He introduced
“ me at court, and thinking it necessary
“ that a stranger, as I was, should be
“ informed a little of what was going for-
“ wards, he told me the several amours
“ that were carried on; and, in particu-
“ lar, began with telling me the great

H 5

“ love

154 THE CAPTIVE.

“love that he bore to the beautiful Isa-
 “bella, assuring himself, that when he
 “had introduced me to her acquaint-
 “ance, I would do him all the good
 “offices that lay in my power. As
 “soon as I saw that enchanting lady
 “I perceived that I should not long
 “continue Don Alphonso’s friend with-
 “out becoming his rival. I felt some
 “remorse, nay even reproached my-
 “self for the treacherous thought; but
 “of what force is remorse and reproach
 “in contradiction to love? They would
 “not have been sufficient to have drawn
 “me from the resolution that I had
 “taken of loving her, had not the Vice-
 “queen come and disgusted me. She
 “behaved with extreme complacency,
 “which I attributed at first to the
 “friendship that her son entertained
 “for me, and having found me one
 “day

THE CAPTIVE 155

“ day very penfive, ſhe asked me whe-
“ ther I would own freely the cauſe of
“ my melancholy if ſhe gueſſed it; and,
“ having aſſured her that I would, ſhe
“ added, that I ſhared the ſame unhappy
“ fate with numberleſs other lovers who
“ had been greatly affected at the ſight
“ of Iſabella’s beauty.

“ I was extremely ſurprized to find
“ that a paſſion that I hardly was con-
“ ſcious of myſelf ſhould be diſcovered
“ by the Vice-queen, and could not
“ conceive by what method ſhe had
“ found out this ſecret, which I had
“ determined to conceal as long as poſ-
“ ſibly I could. It would have been al-
“ together uſeleſs to have denied it,
“ ſince the confuſion it had put me in-
“ to, but too plainly betrayed the
“ truth of it. I told her it was true,

H 6

“ indeed,

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“ indeed, that I had been greatly
 “ pleased with her, and that the only
 “ remorse I felt at being so, proceeded
 “ from the friendship which I had for
 “ Don Alphonso. She replied, that,
 “ with respect to this, I was rather to
 “ be pitied than blamed; that I might
 “ depend upon her assistance, but that,
 “ however, I should not be offended
 “ with her if she did not succeed, since
 “ the young lady was insensible to the
 “ last degree; that she would talk to
 “ her of me, and let me know whether
 “ I might hope to meet with a favoura-
 “ ble reception. She at the same time
 “ told me to meet her in a private walk
 “ in the garden, at ten o’clock that
 “ evening, when she would inform me
 “ of the success of her negotiation. I
 “ went according to appointment.
 “ My dear marquis, said she to me,
 “ you

THE CAPTIVE. 157

“ you are not at all happier than the
“ rest. The young lady’s heart is
“ proof against every thing, and if you
“ did but know the disagreeable por-
“ trait that she has drawn of you, you
“ would immediately conclude that the
“ endeavouring to attract her esteem is
“ so much labour lost.

“ This extraordinary goodness of the
“ Vice-queen would have appeared sus-
“ picious to me, if what she said had not
“ agreed with the rumour of the whole
“ court. I was pretty well assured that
“ it was not through any particular at-
“ tachment that she had to her son
“ that she spoke in that manner. She
“ did not like him well enough; and
“ besides, the complaisance with which
“ she always behaved towards me
“ made me perfectly easy upon that
“ account.

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“account. Had I had sufficient pene-
 “tration I might have guessed that it
 “was for her own sake that she talk’d
 “in that manner, but I was then so
 “overwhelmed with grief at my disap-
 “pointment that I was incapable of
 “making any reflections upon it. She
 “was a woman of great artifice and
 “address, and making use of the in-
 “fluence which she had over me, she
 “not only staggered my resolution but
 “made me determine to think no more
 “about her; or, indeed, about any one
 “else. She seemed exceedingly pleased
 “that there was no body else capable
 “of inspiring me with tender senti-
 “ments, and told me smiling, that she
 “would find me out a person that pos-
 “sessed all the accomplishment capa-
 “ble of attracting the admirations of
 “a man of my gallant disposition. I
 “thanked

THE CAPTIVE. 159

“ thanked her, not doubting, I said, but
“ she would succeed in her choice, but
“ that I was unwilling to abuse her
“ goodness; that she had done, with
“ respect to Isabella, whatsoever she
“ had thought proper, but that, as to
“ this fresh undertaking, the respect I
“ had for her would not permit me to
“ let her condescend to it. She made
“ answer, that she knew the greatness
“ of my desert so well, that she should
“ think it a great pleasure to employ
“ her utmost abilities to serve me, and
“ to make her court as agreeable to me
“ as possible. All this was said with
“ so open and easy an air that I was
“ really charmed with it, and I was
“ very near telling her that she need
“ not give herself the trouble to seek
“ for any one else, for that she herself
“ possessed what she promised to find
“ in

160 THE CAPTIVE.

“ in others. The truth is, that, youth
 “ apart, she was one of the finest wo-
 “ men, in the kingdom; but not having
 “ dared to pay her this compliment,
 “ for fear it should meet with an ill re-
 “ ception, I was willing to see first the
 “ person that she was to procure. I
 “ desired her not to make me wait, be-
 “ cause being naturally very impatient,
 “ the disease I now laboured under re-
 “ quired a very speedy remedy. She
 “ told me, that I should have some in-
 “ telligence of the person that very day,
 “ and that I had nothing else to do
 “ but to prepare to be in love. Some
 “ company coming in put an end to the
 “ conversation, and I went home to
 “ think on what she had said.

“ When the evening was come,
 “ hearing nothing from the Vice-queen,
 “ I thought she had jested with me,
 “ and

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“ and directly went to the palace, where
“ I heard she was gone to visit a lady of
“ her acquaintance. I did not doubt but
“ it was the person she meant, and the
“ more so, because when I wanted to en-
“ quire the name and place of abode of
“ the lady no body knew any thing of
“ the matter. I went home again,
“ whither I was scarcely got, but I
“ received a note from her, the con-
“ tents of which were as follows :

“ **I** HAVE done what you desired,
“ and have found out, as I be-
“ lieve, the very person you would wish
“ for. After all this, you must own
“ that I have stood very much your
“ friend. all the return I expect is
“ that you would answer the character
“ I have given you, namely, that of
“ being in love on the bare description
“ of her person. If you once deceive
“ me,

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“ me, I shall never forgive you. You
 “ must follow the bearer very silently
 “ and without attendants : she will
 “ conduct you to a place of secu-
 “ rity.”

“ Had it come from any one else I
 “ should have taken some of my ser-
 “ vants with me to follow at a distance,
 “ but I could not mistrust the Vice-
 “ queen. We stopped before a house
 “ that looked well enough, and which
 “ I afterwards heard belonged to one
 “ of her women who was a confidant.
 “ She was the person who conducted
 “ me, and having opened the door, I
 “ went in without any noise, where
 “ there was neither servant nor candle.
 “ All this surprized me exceedingly,
 “ and persuaded me almost that some
 “ trick was going to be put upon me.
 “ The woman taking me by the hand

“ to

THE CAPTIVE. 163

“ to lead me up a dark stair-case, made
“ me go through a hall which was full
“ as dark, and from thence into a room
“ where there were two wax tapers burn-
“ ing. I then repented of the suspicions
“ that I had entertained of the Vice-
“ queen. I saw a lady, with her face co-
“ vered, laying upon a couch seemingly
“ asleep; she was in an undress, but a
“ very magnificent one. I had never
“ seen such a one at court, and did not
“ know what idea to form of the per-
“ son that appeared in it. The richness
“ of her dress bespoke her of no mean
“ condition; but when I would fain have
“ examined her more narrowly, by ap-
“ proaching her, I felt myself extremely
“ embarrassed. I went up to her, how-
“ ever, and kneeling down, took hold
“ of one of her hands and kissed it.
“ It was with great reason, madam, said
“ I, that I have been made impatiently
“ to

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" to expect this favour the whole day,
 " since it was by no means equitable
 " that so great a happiness as this
 " should cost me nothing. I expected
 " some reply, by which means there was
 " a possibility of my knowing the lady
 " by her voice, but no answer was
 " made. I entreated her several times,
 " to let me hear her speak, but to no
 " purpose. While I was talking in this
 " manner I heard her laugh, which
 " made me bold enough to lift up her
 " head clothes, but she repulsed me in
 " a very faint manner, which made me
 " conclude that she would not be much
 " displeased at my proceeding farther.
 " I was preparing to do this, when at
 " length she started up: You may
 " judge of my surprize when I disco-
 " vered this person to be no other than
 " the Vice-queen herself. My lord,
 " said

THE CAPTIVE. 165

“ said she, blushing, are you satisfied
“ with your good fortune? I replied, I
“ was, and after a conversation, the
“ consequences of which you may easily
“ guess, I returned home, and she
“ went to the palace. I saw her the
“ next day, as before, and our inter-
“ course continued for some time;
“ however, it did not cure me of my
“ first passion,

“ Her son, with whom it was greatly
“ my interest to continue in friendship,
“ was very complaisant, and indeed, too
“ much so. He was not satisfied with
“ having trusted me with his passion
“ for the beautiful Isabella, but he
“ would needs have me speak to her
“ in his behalf. I did, and I suppose
“ you have heard from herself that she
“ gave me to understand that I should
“ succeed

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“ succeed much better by pleading for
 “ myself than for him. I then thought
 “ myself the most unhappy creature in
 “ the world, for having given credit
 “ too easily to what the Vice-queen
 “ had asserted, whose self-interested
 “ views I was now but too well ac-
 “ quainted with. I resolved to quit her
 “ that instant, in order to give my-
 “ self up to my first passion entirely.
 “ But I thought a little dissimulation
 “ was absolutely necessary, in order to
 “ conceal it from the Vice-queen, and
 “ and that it would be prudent to get rid
 “ of her by degrees, and not to attach
 “ myself to Isabella too suddenly. I
 “ accordingly endeavoured so to do,
 “ but how difficult is it to conceal
 “ any passion from a jealous woman?
 “ She reproached me exceedingly, and
 “ tears succeeding reproaches, I pre-
 “ tended

THE CAPTIVE. 167

“ tended to make it up with her, in
“ order to prevent her from becoming
“ my enemy, which it was far from
“ impossible to happen. I took from
“ that time more precaution in seeing
“ Isabella, and avoided all opportuni-
“ ties of meeting her and the Vice-
“ queen together. But all my care
“ was ineffectual; she perceived the
“ truth, notwithstanding my utmost
“ endeavours to conceal it. At length,
“ one day, as I was walking with
“ her in the garden, she told me that
“ we had both been uneasy for too long
“ a space of time, I in the violence
“ that I offered myself in concealing
“ the change, and she in endeavour-
“ ing to make herself beloved in op-
“ position to my aversion ; that it was
“ high time to put a period to both
“ these uneasinesses, and that, in order

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“ to begin, she would no longer op-
 “ pose what she found to be so strongly
 “ my inclination; that, however, I
 “ should find what she said to be true,
 “ when she told me that Isabella was one
 “ from whom I might not only expect
 “ a good reception, but likewise to be
 “ loved and esteemed. I did not, how-
 “ ever, put much confidence in her.
 “ She, in order to shew the sincerity of
 “ her friendship, wrote to Isabella’s fa-
 “ ther, to get his consent. This mark
 “ of goodness surprized me so agreea-
 “ bly that I could not help shewing
 “ her my gratitude immediately.
 “ She did as she said she would,
 “ and this was still farther confirmed
 “ to me by the beautiful Isabella, who
 “ seemed to partake in the joy of this
 “ new negotiation. An express had
 “ been sent to Genoa, but the messen-
 “ ger

THE CAPTIVE. 169

“ger had scarce been gone before I
“wanted him back again. There was
“hardly a minute that I did not suffer
“a deal through impatience.

“As for Isabella, she did not doubt
“that the interposition of the Viceroy
“would contribute greatly towards
“its success: as she well knew the in-
“fluence that he had over her father,
“and sensible of the pain that I en-
“dured, she could not refuse me an
“interview which I so earnestly de-
“sired. The hour was accordingly
“appointed. Forgive, my dear Of-
“myn, the sighs that are occasioned by
“the remembrance of that day, which,
“though intended to be the happiest
“in my whole life, proved one of the
“most miserable that I ever endured.
“The night was already begun when

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I

“Clarice,

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“Clarice, Habella’s waiting woman,
“on whom she relied extremely,
“brought me a note, the contents
“of which were as follows:

“**I** AM almost despairing at the
“thoughts of being obliged to
“put off the interview that was agreed
“on, but an unlucky accident that has
“just happened will delay for a few
“days our mutual happiness. You
“ought to think that this delay is as
“irksome to me as to you; but con-
“tinue still to love me as you
“have hitherto done, and love will
“furnish us with frequent opportu-
“nities.”

“FAREWELL.”

“As

THE CAPTIVE. 171

“ As I had never received any letters from Isabella, nor knew her hand writing, Clarice found it no difficult matter to persuade me that it came from her. I asked her what was the matter with her mistress. Nothing, replied she, smiling, but a slight indisposition. I thought I understood what it was, and therefore did not press her any farther, but was going back again, when one of the Vice-queen’s pages met me upon the stairs, and told me that the Vice-queen wanted to speak with me. I could have heartily wished to have dispensed with this visit, but not well knowing what excuse I could make, and finding myself very near her apartment, I followed the page. I found her at her toilette, and in a much better humour than

12 THE CAPTIVE.

“ she had been for some time past; and
“ at length she engaged me to spend
“ great part of the night with her. I
“ seemed to her however to be think-
“ ing of somewhat else, with which she
“ every now and then reproached me.
“ As I was accustomed to be very fa-
“ miliar, I told her, by way of excuse,
“ that I had passed the preceding
“ night at play, upon which she in-
“ vited me to lay down upon her bed: I
“ accepted of her offer, and went to
“ sleep.

“ Scarce had I been in this con-
“ dition two hours, than being awak-
“ ened by the light of a flambeau,
“ that was held before my eyes, the
“ first object that presented itself to my
“ view was Isabella, who, holding a
“ dagger in her hand, was going to stab
“ me,

THE CAPTIVE. 173

“ me, had not Don Alphonso held her
“ arm. You may judge of the great-
“ ness of my astonishment. I was in
“ doubt whether what I saw was a dream
“ or reality. But my rival, who
“ had got hold of the dagger, was just
“ going to execute the vengeance which
“ he had prevented, had not Isabella
“ withheld him. The Vice-queen threw
“ herself between us, and had like to
“ have been killed by her own son,
“ but I luckily saved her, and casting
“ my eyes towards her, found her in a
“ swoon.

“ Seeing that it was now high time
“ for me to retire, I went into Isabella’s
“ chamber to take one parting view
“ of her, and to die at her feet if she
“ thought that death could atone for
“ my fault, but not finding her there, I

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“ went to look for a felucca, and in
 “ my going I met Clarice. Having
 “ asked her where she was go-
 “ ing, she told me she was come to
 “ look for her mistress, who, as she
 “ heard, was just embarking in a ves-
 “ sel for Barcelona. This news sur-
 “ prized me a good deal, and therefore,
 “ without hesitation, I took the first
 “ felucca that offered itself. At
 “ Clarice’s earnest entreaty I permitted
 “ her to go with me.

“ As the wind was very favourable
 “ I was in great hopes of coming up
 “ with my dear Isabella. My mind
 “ till then had been so distracted that
 “ I had hardly time to make the
 “ least reflection on my unfortunate
 “ condition; but as soon as we were
 “ out at sea I began to think on the
 “ several

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“several circumstances that attended
“this affair: but the more I thought
“on them, the more sadly was I per-
“plexed. Clarice found herself much
“disordered-in the felucca, occasioned
“either by the fright she was in, or by
“the motion of the vessel. I com-
“forted her as well as I could, but she
“found herself extremely ill indeed.
“Being sensible that she was near her
“end, she called me to her, and told
“me, that she had been bribed by
“Don Alphonso; that she had over-
“heard part of my conversation with
“Isabella, and had told the Don of it,
“who had thereupon resolved to hin-
“der our meeting, and had wrote the
“letter I received, as I thought, from
“my mistress; that Don Alphonso had
“taken his measures accordingly, hav-
“ing already had information of the

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“ time and place at which I was to
“ meet Isabella by appointment ; that
“ he had entered into her room, and
“ that she was entirely ignorant of all
“ that had happened, only that she
“ heard the clashing of swords some
“ hours after ; that she then ran up
“ with an intention to succour her mis-
“ tress, and that she found her prepar-
“ ing for her departure.

“ The unhappy Clarice, who was
“ almost drowned in tears while she
“ was making this recital, entreated
“ me to forgive her a crime, the con-
“ cern for which was now occasioning
“ her death. This I found no great
“ difficulty in doing, as the traitors
“ were now sufficiently punished.

“ In

THE CAPTIVE. 177

“ In order to compleat our distress,
“ there was a strong report that the
“ vessel which we were so earnestly in
“ quest of was sunk, which was con-
“ firmed by several advices that we
“ received from different quarters.
“ You may judge of the torture that
“ this put me to. They found no
“ other method effectual to the bring-
“ ing me to myself than the telling
“ me that sea news was by no means
“ to be depended on, and that it fre-
“ quently happened that vessels which
“ were said to be lost, were all the
“ while safely arrived in port; and
“ moreover that several used to fall
“ into the hands of the Turks, which
“ they had no other reason to think
“ lost, than because they had not re-
“ ceived any advices concerning them.
“ Though this did not thoroughly satisfy

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“me, yet it served at least to give me
“some hope, and induced me to under-
“take a voyage by sea to visit all the
“ports of the Levant, till I could find
“the vessel I so much desired.”

The Aga having finished his story, Osmyn told him that it would be no difficult matter to make up matters with Isabella, when she once knew the person who had betrayed her, was no other than her own waiting maid. That it was not at all surprizing that she should be enraged against him, ignorant as she was of the truth of the whole; for that she had all along suspected that he had acted in concert with Don Alphonso to betray her.

“Heavens!

THE CAPTIVE. 179

“Heavens!” cried the enamoured marquis, “is it possible that she could
“wrong my love in that manner? And
“even supposing I had not really
“loved her in the degree that I do,
“how could she suppose me capable of
“so base a behaviour?”

“My lord,” said Osmyn, “when
“appearances are against us, and no-
“thing seems to plead in our favour,
“we are easily condemned in the minds
“of our judges.”

The day now began to break in upon them, which induced them to come to some determination upon the design which they had in view, and on the means they were to make use of to get Charlotte out of the castle. They formed several schemes, but all dan-

180 THE CAPTIVE.

gerous, and liable to many interruptions and inconveniences. However, these were the two properest people that could have been picked out to have conducted that affair, the one having a great deal of influence over Charlotte's keeper, the other over the garrison of the castle; yet the Dey had so many spies therein, that they had need of the utmost circumspection, and had reason to be apprehensive of the success of their undertaking. At length Osmyn thought of a stratagem which was the more difficult to be discovered, inasmuch as it was concealed under the cloak of religion: but was indeed a little disheartning to a girl of Charlotte's extreme delicacy.

A soldier that had died in the castle was that night to be buried: he

thought therefore of this expedient, to lock up the body in a room, and to put Charlotte into the coffin as if she had been the person that was to be buried. This being resolved on, Osmyn, who was to see her that morning, took upon him to break it to her, and to prepare her for it, (softening the word coffin into a chest) while the Aga gave orders not to bury the soldier till it was very late. He recommended himself and his cause to Osmyn, and for that purpose gave him Clarice's letter. After many professions of friendship, they separated, in order to meet again at dinner-time, fearing that the staying together too long might give cause of suspicion to the people about the castle, who are naturally very mistrustful.

Charlotte,

182 THE CAPTIVE.

Charlotte, who had been extremely uneasy all night, was very glad to see Osmyn come so early in the morning to her relief.

“Well,” said she, “is my deliverance at hand, and must we take this traitor with us?”

“That traitor as you call him, madam,” replied Osmyn, “is one of the most constant and faithful lovers that I ever heard of.”

“Ah! I foresaw,” said she, “that he would even gain you over to his side.”

“Do not condemn so rashly,” replied Osmyn, “before you have heard.”

“What

THE CAPTIVE. 183

“What can he say,” said she, “to
“overturn what I myself have seen?
“Did not I find him with the Vice-
“queen? Did not he assist Don Al-
“phonso to deceive me?”

“No indeed, madam,” said Osmyn:
“permit me to tell you that he loves
“you too well to be capable of be-
“having in such a manner. And, in
“order to leave you no room for doubt-
“ing of the truth of what I say, see if
“you know that hand”, shewing
her at the same time Clarice’s let-
ter.

“Well,” said she a little surprised,
“it is my chambermaid’s.”

“Read

184 THE CAPTIVE.

“Read it,” continued Osmyrn, “and
“you will then find who was in reality
“the traitor.”

While Charlotte was reading it, she found herself agitated with different emotions, and this either through the sorrow she felt at using the marquis unkindly, or through rage at finding herself deceived by the very person on whom she depended the most.

“Good God!” cried she, “canst
“thou leave unpunished so base a
“treachery which has been produc-
“tive of so many deplorable misfor-
“tunes?”

“No, assuredly,” replied Osmyrn,
“for she is already dead through the
“concern

THE CAPTIVE. 185

“concern which the reflection on her
“past behaviour occasioned.”

He then told her the several particulars of the marquis's story, which occasioned her to abate much of the severity which she had before testified against him. She forgave him, and easily permitted him to embark at the same time with her. It is true indeed that Osmyn, like a skilful confidant, said nothing of what related to the Vice-queen; and Charlotte, who had no mind to be angry any longer with her lover, would not be informed of any more.

Osmyn then spoke to her of the scheme they had laid to convey her out of the castle in a chest; he found her very much disposed to come into
“it,

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it, provided their security was consulted in it as well as hers. Osmyn assured her that it was, and told her that she had nothing else to do, but to hold herself in readiness at a minute's warning, while the Aga and himself were making the necessary preparations; that they were to dine together, and should take the proper measures for the accomplishment of their design. He then took his leave of her, and went home, where the Aga came soon after, and gave him an account of every thing that he had done.

Osmyn took care that the vessel should be furnished with all necessary provisions. It may easily be believed that the Aga did not forget to ask him what success he had met with in his application to Charlotte on his behalf.

Osmyn

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Osmyn informed him of it, which delighted the Aga exceedingly.

As all was ready, and as Osmyn had given the necessary orders, they both went to the castle, where the Aga made him a present of the several jewels and presents which the prince had given him at different times, and desired him to accept of them; not as a reward for what he had done, but as a pledge of his friendship, and of the assurances of his service upon all occasions. Osmyn accepted of them, upon condition only, that the Aga should make use of them whensoever he stood in need, as if they still belonged to him. They then went and paid their respects to the prince; and when the time for putting their scheme into execution was come, Osmyn went and changed
Charlotte's

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Charlotte's guards, putting in their room three of his own people, whom he wanted to take along with him. The Aga followed him soon after, longing excessively to see his beloved Charlotte. As soon as he came into her presence, he threw himself upon his knees, with so transported an air of joy and love, that the fair Charlotte could not help lifting him up and embracing him. They would fain have entered into discourse, had not Osmyn told them that it was absolutely necessary that they should defer it, and that they would have time enough to come to an explanation when they were once got beyond the reach of pursuit. They both followed his advice, and the coffin having been brought, they wrapped her up in a fine cloth, and ordered her to be conveyed

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veyed out of the room, and putting a carpet over it, according to the custom of the country, his people carried it to the burial ground.

The dead are accounted sacred among the Turks, so that, supposing Osmyn and the Aga had not been there, they would not have dared to have searched the coffin.

They immediately went to the gates of the city, which the Aga caused to be opened by his authority, and from thence out of town, expecting to find their horses, but the Dey's guards had taken them away. This was a distress indeed, as they had five or six leagues to go before they could get to the place where the vessel was waiting for them. Time was precious, and they knew not what to resolve upon, when they heard several horses coming

ing

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ing towards them. Osmyn having hid Isabella and the marquis within the ruins of an old building, went up to the horsemen, and found that it was Siffredi, the general of the gallies, attended by a convoy, to whom he complained that some of the Dey's people had taken away his horses. Siffredi, who knew the great esteem the Dey had for Osmyn, offered him whatever number he had occasion for, and two of his people to escort him. The former he accepted, and could not indeed refuse the latter, though he had rather been without them. He then went up to the lovers, and acquainted them with what had happened. They took horse immediately, disguising Isabella like a young slave of Osmyn's, and as it was night, it was no easy matter to discover her. They made as much haste

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haste as they possibly could. The marquis kept close to Isabella, the two guards went before, in order to give an answer to all they should meet, and Osmyn went sometimes on one side and sometimes on the other. Being at length arrived at the place where the vessel was waiting for them, they returned the two horses by the guard. After having amply rewarded them for their pains, Osmyn gave them a letter for the Dey, and then dismissed them. The contents of the letter were as follows:

“ My Lord,

“ **D**O not complain of me if I
“ endeavour to procure
“ freedom for a young lady to whose
“ family I am indebted for my own.
“ You

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“ You have often heard me own the
“ obligations I was under to my mas-
“ ter when I was a slave in Italy. I
“ have had an opportunity of return-
“ ing them to his daughter, who is
“ that Charlotte who was in the
“ prince’s custody. Do not then
“ wonder that my gratitude has carried
“ me so far as to venture my life for
“ the sake of those to whom I am in-
“ debted for it. The prince may per-
“ haps have as much reason to blame
“ me as you have, but I am insensible
“ of the reproaches that are contradic-
“ tory to reason and honour. Char-
“ lotte was the occasion of your quarrel,
“ peace will then be more easily ob-
“ tained, since she is removed at a dis-
“ tance from both. Thus I do my du-
“ ty, and procure a blessing to my
“ country, which every good man
“ must

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“ must be heartily desirous of. Fare-
“ well, live contentedly and prosper
“ in your designs, but, if you have
“ any regard to justice, do not blame
“ me.

“ OSMYN.”

They soon set sail, and the wind being favourable, they doubled the cape, and found themselves a great way at sea before the guard, whom they had dismissed, could possibly return to the Dey, whom we will leave foaming with rage, to return to this happy company who were now out of all apprehensions of being retaken.

The marquis was sighing by his dear Isabella, and Isabella was enjoying the sweets of liberty in the company of a
VOL. II K lover

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lover whom she had long ago thought lost. Osmyn was employed in giving the necessary orders for the management of the vessel, but this being settled he came and joined them. Isabella expressed her apprehensions of the marquis's having changed his religion by his being clothed in a Turkish habit; but he assuring her he had not, related to her the method by which he had escaped it, and in order to convince her of it more effectually, he told the remainder of his story, addressing himself to Osmyn in the following words.

“ I told you the resolution that I had
 “ taken of going in search of the vessel
 “ in which Isabella was said to have em-
 “ barked. I failed for near six months
 “ in a frigate carrying about six guns,
 “ but she was taken by a vessel of thir-

“ ty

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“ ty guns, belonging to Tripoli, against
“ which I sustained a fight of seven
“ hours, during which time I had al-
“ most lost all my hands. I was con-
“ ducted to Tripoli, and presented to
“ the Dey, who, upon what he had
“ heard, treated me very well, and
“ having taken a great liking to me,
“ was very solicitous that I should
“ change my religion. He sent me,
“ for, that purpose to a famous Maho-
“ metan doctor, who was a very good
“ sort of man. He was son to a rene-
“ gado, and not very staunch in his be-
“ lief of Mahometism. I opened
“ my mind freely to him and entreated
“ him to make the Dey believe that I
“ had embraced the faith. He complied
“ with my request. The Dey be-
“ lieved it, and gave me more dis-

K 2 “ tinguishing

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“tinguishing marks of his friendship
“than ever.

“He had a nephew who was jealous
“of the extraordinary indulgence which
“he shewed towards me, and with
“whom I had oftentimes little quarrels
“which might have brought some mis-
“fortunes upon me. The Dey, who
“perceived it, resolved to separate us
“for a time, and therefore sent me with
“some rich presents to the Prince of
“Tunis, his intimate friend, to whom
“he recommended me very strongly.
“Accordingly I was made his Aga
“within eight days after my arrival. I
“led an uncomfortable life enough,
“as you well know, and this though
“seemingly unfortunate event has been
“the prelude to my present happiness;
“which

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“ which I hope will not have a period
“ as long as I live.”

The marquis and Isabella then entered into a detail of their several adventures; and the affairs of the ship requiring Osmyn's presence he left them together.

The wind being changed a storm seemed to be coming on. Upon which they determined to coast along Barbary, till they were come to an island where they intended to stay and take in water. This scheme was a very prudent one, and they had great reason afterwards to be rejoiced that they had carried it into execution, for what they had been apprehensive of came to pass but too literally.

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The storm was so violent that they were obliged to keep at anchor two or three days among the rocks and shoals of the coast. They were far enough off from Tunis, and they had no reason to think that they should be sought after in a place before which a thousand vessels might easily pass without perceiving them.

At length the wind ceased, and the ship putting out to sea continued her course along the coast. They beheld several pieces of plank floating, and parts of a ship, so that there seemed to have been a shipwreck.

They sailed two days in this manner, when at last they heard a man's voice which could only come from a rock about three miles off the shore. They concluded

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concluded that it was some man that had saved himself from being swallowed up by the sea. Osmyn, at Isabella's entreaty, who was greatly affected with the man's cries, turned the ship towards the rock, where there was now no danger in anchoring, because the sea was calm. When they came within a few yards of him, they found him pale and naked. Osmyn asked him, in the Moriscoe language, how he came upon that rock.

"I am an unfortunate Christian," replied the other, in Italian, "who stand in need of immediate help.

Osmyn thought that he both recollected the voice and the face of the man. Isabella thought the same, but he was so altered that it was almost impossible

impossible to recollect him. Osmyn asked him who he was.

"I am," said he, "Clifford, the Dey's slave, and if he has sent you for his wife, you need only land and you will find her half dead." Upon the hearing these words, Isabella, transported with joy, cried out. "Sir, is it you, and do you not know Charlotte?"

While she was questioning him in this manner Osmyn ordered the vessel to go as near the shore as possible, carrying refreshments to the Sultana and Mr. Clifford; Charlotte and the marquis following: They found the Sultana almost dead. They gave her some nourishment, which brought her a little to herself.

"Art

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"Art thou here, my dear Charlotte?" said she, opening her eyes, and shutting them again through excessive weakness.

Osmyn proposed to Mr. Clifford to convey the Sultana on board, which was accordingly done. They both got strength daily, and when pretty well recovered, Osmyn desired Mr. Clifford to recount the several particulars of his shipwreck, and how he got upon the rock.

"You know, I suppose," said he, "how the Sultana was carried off. My surprize, you may imagine, was great, but my joy was inexpressible. The wind was pretty favourable at first, but it soon changed about, so that we were obliged to coast along, and at length

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“ length to anchor ; but a violent storm
“ broke the cables of our anchor, and
“ cast us on some rocks. You may
“ imagine how distressed I was : at
“ length, however, seeing a rock that
“ almost touched the stern of the vessel,
“ I took the Sultana, in my arms and
“ threw myself on it. In a little while
“ after the sea got off the ship and left
“ us two alone. The Sultana endea-
“ voured to comfort me, by represent-
“ ing that the sailors could never be so
“ cruel as to leave us in that condition :
“ but you may judge of my distress
“ when then ext day I beheld them at a
“ considerable distance. I despaired of
“ having any relief, till at the end of two
“ days I perceived somewhat floating
“ on the water. Seeing that it ap-
“ proached the rock, and not doubt-
“ ing but it was a ship, I immediately
“ told

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“told the Sultana, who did not seem
“to be much rejoiced at it, fearing
“that it came from Tunis; being wil-
“ling to die rather than return. Up-
“on your nearer approach I made a
“signal and was happy enough to be
“understood by you.”

Mr. Clifford having ended his adventures, they all joined in one common joy. The fine weather continuing, they soon got to Leghorn, and from thence an easy passage to England, leaving Isabella and the marquis in Italy:

The Sultana embraced the Christian religion, and Mr. Clifford, now Sir Richard, for his father had been dead more than a year, married her.

As

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As for Osmyn, they would not part with him, but settled on him a handsome annuity, to enable him to pass the remainder of his days in peace and happiness.

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